UAAP SPECIAL / B2-1 | WORLD / A22 | BUSINESS / B1 | ACROSS / A9 | METRO / A20

UAAP wars start today: FEU vs Ateneo

US deports 10 Kremlin agents in spy swap drama

Vehicle sales surged by 37% in first half

Iloilo artists paint to save mangroves

Ban on bus coding scheme to be lifted

Octopus chooses Spain; parakeet picks Holland

BERLIN—Germany's oracle octopus Paul picked Spain to beat the Netherlands in the World Cup final on Sunday in a live television broadcast watched across Europe on Friday.

But a parakeet in Singapore disagreed: It picked Holland to beat Spain.

The two-year-old celebrity octopus, who

OCTOPUS A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Saturday, July 10, 2010 ★★ 9 sections / Vol. 25 / No. 212 P18

After 5 years of inquiry, Ombudsman says Cito, Joc-joc liable for graft

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

AS THOUGH by fortuitous timing, the Office of the Ombudsman yesterday said former Agriculture Secretary Luis "Cito" Lorenzo might be liable for graft and malversation of public funds in connection with the P728-million fertilizer fund scam.

AFTER A8

HEAT IS ON LeBron James is leaving the Cleveland Cavaliers to join forces with fellow All-Stars Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh at the Miami Heat next season in the hope of winning an elusive NBA championship. AP, FILE

Palace: No Merci in Bolante probe

James picks Miami, joins Wade, Bosh

LEBRON JAMES walked away from the comforts of home to chase an NBA championship.

Perhaps the most hysterically hyped free agent in sports history, James announced Thursday night on national television that he plans to leave Cleveland to join the Miami Heat for a chance to play with Olympic teammates Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh.

It's a power trio that could dominate the league for years to come. Give related story in Sports, Page A16)

"I can't say it was always in my plans, because I never thought it was possible," said James, who wrestled with his decision for weeks. "like the things that the Miami Heat franchise have done, to free up cap space and be able to put themselves in a position this summer to have all three of us, it was hard to turn down.

"These are two great players, two of the greatest players that we have in this game today."

JAMES A6

'Removing Gutierrez an option'

By TJ Burgonio

WITH ARROYO ALLY Mercoditas Gutierrez as Ombudsman, Malacañang is sticking to its plan for a truth commission to look into and put closure to the 2004 P728-million fertilizer fund scam.

"Since Ombudsman Gutierrez is close to the Arroyos, we will not get justice from her. That's the reason we need the truth commission to be formed—so that a tight case will be gathered and filed before the Office of the Ombudsman," Secretary Edwin Lacierda, President Aquino's spokesperson, told reporters yesterday at a briefing.

Lacierda also said the Aquino administration was studying ways of removing Gutierrez from office.

The other options are to question the legality of Gutierrez's term as Ombudsman, or to exe-

PALACE A8

P-NOY'S CHOICE It's final: The interior portfolio goes to former Naga City Mayor Jesse Robredo, shown here with then candidate Noynoy Aquino during the presidential campaign. Robredo was Mr. Aquino's first, and much-applauded, choice for the powerful post. DANA GARCIA, FILE PHOTOGRAPHERS/INQUIRER.NET/MYN.GLOBAL

Back to 1st choice: Robredo to DILG

By TJ Burgonio and Norman Bordadora

PRESIDENT AQUINO yesterday ended his short stint as head of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), appointing Jesse Robredo as the new interior and local government secretary.

Robredo, former mayor of Naga City and Ramon Magsaysay awardee for government service, became the newest addition to the official family of Mr. Aquino, whose latest appointments of known allies of fugitive Sen. Panfilo Lacson to two Cabinet, but key government positions created a stir.

The appointment of Robredo ended suspense over who Mr. Aquino would pick to head the DILG, a department which Vice President Jejomar Binay had cast envious eyes on.

It came nine days after Mr. Aquino, in his inaugural speech on June 30, announced that he

BACK: A6

LTO chief is Noy shooting partner

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Lawyer Virginia Torres, newly appointed chief of the Land Transportation Office (LTO), is an occasional shooting buddy of President Aquino and a scholar of his late father, former Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr.

In her home province of Tarlac, Torres, 57, has a reputation of being honest and God-fearing.

LTO CHIEF A6

'Automated mystery' case: Mar files protest

VP FIGHT TURNS LEGAL Lawyers of defeated Liberal Party vice presidential candidate Manuel Roxas submit documents questioning the electoral victory of Jejomar Binay to the Supreme Court in Manila. GRIG MONTEGRANDE

By Norman Bordadora and Kristine L. Alave

CLAIMING HE was a victim of automated "mysteries" and widespread vote fraud, defeated Liberal Party candidate Manuel Roxas II yesterday asked the Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET) to overturn the victory of his rival Jejomar Binay and declare him the duly-elected vice president.

The running mate of President Aquino challenged the election of the former Makati City mayor in a 102-page protest his lawyers filed at the Supreme Court, which also sits as the tribunal that decides protests in presidential and vice presidential races.

Roxas asked for a manual recount of three million votes for vice president in the May 10 elections that were either not counted or were considered stray or null by the Comelec.

CASE A6

'Little President' abhors spotlight

By TJ Burgonio

UNLIKE his media-savvy boss, President Aquino, Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa prefers to work behind the scenes away from the limelight.

In his first public engagement with the press Thursday night, the "Little President" spoke with candor about himself and his personal ties with Mr. Aquino—and his aversion to the limelight.

"I abhor very much being in the limelight," the low-key lawyer said in a pep talk after hosting a dinner for Malacañang reporters at the Bantredo restaurant in Intramuros, Manila.

That could explain why he had managed to evade the press from the run-up to Mr. Aquino's presidential ambitions to his inaugural to the issuance of Memorandum Circular No. 1 on the status of non-career appointees and contractuals.

The Aquino administration's first order, which Ochoa himself had signed, had confused ca-

LITTLE A6

Br. Luistro ready to talk sex (ed)

By DJ Yap

THIS TIME, the La Salle brother was ready to talk sex—sex education, that is.

Education Secretary Armin Luistro finally revealed to media his thoughts on sex education, a week after he came under fire for snapping at reporters who sought his position on the teaching of matters of sexuality to schoolchildren.

BR. LUISTRO A7

New AFP plan vs Reds stresses human rights

By Jocelyn R. Uy

EMPHASIS IS ON RESPECT for human rights in the new counterinsurgency plan crafted by the military.

On Monday, President Aquino will sit down for his first formal command conference with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and discuss the new counterinsurgency plan to deal with communist rebels, AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Jose Mabanta Jr. said yesterday.

Mr. Aquino will have his own opportunity to hear a president that has confounded Philippine presidents since Ferdinand Marcos.

The conference will also take up the slow-crawling plan to modernize the Armed Forces, Mabanta said.

The major service chiefs and staff commanders will join Mr. Aquino and AFP Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Ricardo David Jr. at the meeting.

Mabanta said the military had lined up various issues to discuss with the President but would put emphasis on plans for the long-overdue modernization of the AFP and a new

NEW AFP A7

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

PCSO LOTTO RESULTS

6/49 LOTTO: 25 4 6 13 16 7
JACKPOT PRIZE: ₱47,000,000.00

4D LOTTO: 6 9 7 0
3D LOTTO: 0 5 8 3 9 1 4

MEGA LOTTO 6/45: 2 9 11 13 24 38
JACKPOT PRIZE: ₱7,849,605.60

Gov't to hike budget deficit

By Nassel W. Domingo

THE NEW ECONOMIC TEAM UNDER THE AQUINO administration has further widened the 2010 budget deficit program from P300 billion to P325 billion.

Budget Secretary Florencio Abad said in a press briefing yesterday that the planned increase in the budget deficit was prompted by the need to further expand the economy.

In making the announcement, Abad gave assurance that the administration still aimed to control the deficit.

"Despite the increase, the DBCC [Cabinet-level Development Budget Coordination Committee] is keen on bringing down the deficit to manageable levels to the medium term," Abad said.

However, Secretary Cesar V. Purisima said on Thursday that the government wanted to cut the budget deficit to about 3 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) within three years.

GDP refers to the total value of goods and services produced and rendered within an economic territory within a given time.

In 2009, the government posted a deficit of P295.5 billion or 3.9 percent of GDP.

The previous deficit target for 2010 of P300 billion amounts for 3.6 percent of the projected GDP this year.

"The DBCC agreed to reduce the deficit level to 2 percent of GDP by the end of 2013 and keep that up to the end of 2016," Abad said.

He said that the fiscal consolidation effort of the Aquino administration would not in any way impede higher economic growth.

He disclosed that the GDP growth target for this year was set at a range of 5 percent to 6 percent and that the economy was projected to grow at a faster pace of 7 percent to 8 percent in 2011.

Abad said the government hoped to raise this goal by harnessing "innovative partnerships" with the private sector.

Abad rallied attention to President Aquino's statements that he planned to provide more funds for social services, particularly the expansion of conditional cash transfers, the bridging of the school building gap and greater coverage of Philhealth benefits.

"Infrastructure programs will also be prioritized to create employment in the local communities and improve competitiveness," he said.

Based on the latest fiscal program, the government expects to spend P1.82 trillion this year, including disbursements already made in the first half.

Such expenses will drive from the P1.201 trillion that the government plans to raise, P1.15 trillion of which will come from taxes.

Abad also disclosed that only P392 billion were left in this year's calamity fund, or less than a third of the P2 billion earmarked for disaster relief expenses.

Abad said that in President Aquino's stated, the balance would be "surely inadequate" to meet contingencies in the second half of the year, when the country entered the typhoon season.

"The Arroyo administration already used up 70.4 percent or P1.408 billion [of the calamity fund] during the first half of this year," he said.

"If the P887.5 billion quick-response fund of the Department of Social Work and Development, Department of Public Works and Highways and Department of National Defense is to be delivered, the balance would be negative," he added.

Etta at CHR roils Left

THE POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT OF SOLICITOR Alicia dos Reyes Etta Rosales as head of the Commission on Human Rights has established fissures dividing those wanting fashion of the left, one calling it a terrible move and the other considering it as a "positive" choice.

The militant group Kilusang Mayo Uno branded Rosales as a "red-baiter" unfit for the position while its ally Anakbayan said her possible appointment would be a "double blank slap" for human rights in the country. Anakpawis hit back with its own blasts against Rosales' bashers.

KMU and Anakbayan are backing to one of the factions in the leftist movement, while Anakpawis belongs to another faction.

On Thursday, Rosales said reporters she had been appointed chair of the CHR which was previously headed by now Justice Secretary Leila de Lima. Later in the day, she clarified that the appointment was "unofficial" and that there was no appointment yet of the official-papers were released.

Presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said no official announcement of Rosales' appointment had yet been issued.

KMU, in branding Rosales a "red-baiter" recalled her for supposedly linking legal progressive groups to the communist movement, and for saying that the killings of militants were part of an internal purge among communists.

KMU also said that when she chaired the House human rights committee during the 13th Congress, Rosales ignored many contentious working resumptions into extrajudicial killings.

Anakbayan, for its part, said that putting Rosales at the helm of the CHR would smack of political patronage. It said that there were people more qualified than her.

Karapatan, a human rights group, also said Rosales had supported a compromise deal with the Marcoses for human rights violations during the Martial Law regime and would be biased against human rights victims.

Similar Alliance was affiliated with Aquino's Liberal Party during the 2010 elections. One of the 12% senatorial candidates was former Akbayan Rep. Etta Rosales.

Julia H. Salazar in and Alcuin Papa

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AFTER DROUGHT COME FLOODS

Adios, El Niño; hola, La Niña

By Rene Pastor

NEW YORK—A LA NIÑA WEATHER MONDAY, the opposite number of its more infamous cousin El Niño, will ramp up in the equatorial Pacific in July and August, the Climate Prediction Center forecast on Thursday.

La Niña would boost hurricane formation in the oil-rich Gulf of Mexico and pose a threat to crops in the US Midwest and in countries like Argentina and Australia, it said.

"La Niña conditions are likely to develop during July through August (70 %)," the CPC, an office under the US National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), noted in its monthly update.

"The majority of (computer) models now predict La Niña conditions to develop during late August and to continue through early 2011," the Center explained.

The CPC said it is important that sea-surface temperatures become colder in June. This means a La Niña anomaly is being born and will become stronger in the months ahead.

La Niña spawns colder than-normal waters in the equatorial Pacific Ocean. In contrast, El Niño does the opposite and warms these waters. Both reveals havoc in the weather from the US to India and occur every three to four years.

El Niño means "little boy" in Spanish and was named after the Christ child because it was first noticed by anchovy fishermen in Latin America one Christmastime in the 19th Century.

The undesirable strong El Niño of 2009 has just wound down and this La Niña is kicking up hard on its heels.

The emergence of a La Niña is of particular concern to the oil industry in the Gulf, already reeling from the massive oil spill caused by a leaking BP well.

Worldwide, the effect of a La Niña would spread into countries like Brazil, one of the world's top agricultural growers, and India, a major producer and consumer of everything from sugar to oilseeds.

In a La Niña, CPC said, dries than normal weather can occur from southern Brazil (all the way) to central Argentina fueling their strikes.

Aside from sugar cane, their main area of fed ocffee production is Brazil, the world's top producer. The Latin American country is the world's second biggest exporter of soybeans. Argentina is the biggest exporter of soybean oil and soymeal.

For Brazil, heavy rains during an El Niño in 2009 hampered the harvesting of the sugar cane. But this could turn into a prolonged dry spell as La Niña develops.

CPC said the Indian monsoon, which weakened in 2009 to its worst level in more than 30 years, tends to be greater than normal especially in the northwestern part of the country in a La Niña year.

In between, a La Niña tends to increase rainfall over Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and northern Australia. All these countries suffer from severe drought when an El Niño hits.

IN THE KNOW

La Niña. Mostly "The Little Girl," refers to unusually cold sea surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean, resulting in extreme climate conditions such as devastating rains and winds.

Meteorologists use the term to differentiate it from its opposite, El Niño ("The Little Boy"), which is characterized by unusually warm ocean temperatures and results in an increase in storms over tropical territories.

La Niña events are also linked to changes in the atmospheric pressure in the Pacific, calculated by comparing air pressures between Tahiti and Darwin, Australia.

In the Philippines, La Niña may cause anomalies in rainfall, temperatures and tropical cyclone activities, and may bring more normal to above normal rainfall over the eastern part of the country.

La Niña may possibly up to nine months, greatly affecting economic and social activities.

La Niña events have tended to three periods of years, as evidence suggests, but it still needs to be studied decades after meteorologists had a better understanding of the subject.

Among the La Niña events on record occurred in 1903 to 1908, 1909 to 1908, 1974 to 1976, 1973 to 1976, 1975 to 1976, 1988 to 1989 and 1998 to 1999.

La Niña phenomenon also occurred in the years 1984 to 1985, 2000 to 2001, 2007 to 2008, and 2008 to 2009. — Inquirer Research

Phenomenon to persist till 2011

By Alcuin Papa

LA NIÑA IS SET TO ARRIVE IN THE NEXT two months and would persist until the first quarter of next year, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said.

According to Pagasa's climate outlook for July, the agency also advised the public, especially those living in hazardous areas, to take precautions against floods, rains and landslides.

"Cooler than normal conditions and the atmosphere favor the transition to La Niña within the next two months. With the probable development of La Niña during the September-October season, the majority of climate models also predict that this will likely continue until the first quarter of 2011," the agency said.

Per July, Pagasa said one or two tropical cyclones are expected to enter the country.

Also, Western Luzon and some areas of Central Luzon including Southern Leyte are likely to experience below normal rains, till southern during the month. "The rest of the country is expected to receive near to above normal rainfall."

The agency also said temperatures may be slightly warmer than normal, ranging from 22 to 35 degrees Celsius.

TOURISM CHIEF'S LAMENT

Boracay under threat

THE ONCE PRISTINE ISLAND of Boracay has become an environmentally-challenged, if not famous beach now choked by sewage and too many bars, the country's new tourism minister said yesterday.

In a candid interview with AFP, Tourism Secretary Alberto Lim suggested he was sure tourists visited equally beautiful beaches in the country other than Boracay, which the government said drew 400,000 tourists last year.

"If you go to Boracay you'd love the beach, you'd love the night life and (the) good restaurants. But it's so dense, it's so dense," Lim said.

"It is now, you know, too commercial. It's become Phuket," he said, referring to the much larger Thai beach resort island.

Lim, who joined President Benigno Aquino's cabinet when it took over on June 30, said the 10.3 square-kilometer island was a different place a generation ago.

The quaint that followed the tourist dollar caused the scenery off the four-kilometer white-sand beachfront to uproot algae, which was fed by sewage from the hotels and restaurants, he said.

"Thirty years ago they tried to set the rules but they were not successful. The local government did not cooperate so people started overbuilding," Lim said.

"As you can see, bad sewage—that's why (you are seeing) algae in certain times of the year. It's green. It's the result of the sewage seeping out.

"The algae there is annoying it's most. Maybe fish eat it. But it's an unpleasant thing, there's a problem below the surface."

Asked if the problem, which first made world headlines in the mid-1990s, had been solved, Lim said: "I'm not sure. I don't think so, that's why at certain times of the year the algae forms."

Lim said environmental and zoning regulations were not being enforced, leading to scenarios even being built inside the high-water mark.

"Soo they continue to build. They're building huge hotels in the mountains."

Lim suggested the government may in the end be unable to halt overdevelopment.

"We have world-class laws but nobody follows them," he said, adding tourists may just have to look elsewhere.

"The thing about Boracay is the quality of the sand, it's so very white. But there are other places that have better quality sand, but (they are) very expensive," Lim said. AFP

Paul Mortel; 67

PAUL S. MORTEL, FORMER MEDIA practitioner (Ace-Campion, Philippine Advertising Counselors Inc. and Image Enterprises Inc.) and a regular contributor to the Letters section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer for many years, died on Thursday.

He was 67.

His body lies in the Sacred Heart of Jesus Chapel, MEILA Court, Mabinlay, Manikina. Interment will be at Loyola Memorial Park in San Mateo, Rizal. The date will be announced later.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, July 10, 2010
14th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Is 6:1-8
Gospel: Mt 10:24-33

Jesus said to his apostles, "A student is not above his teacher, or a slave above his master. It is enough for a student to be like his teacher, and the slave like his master. If the head of the family has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of the family! So, do not be afraid of them.

"There is nothing covered that will not be uncovered, and nothing hidden that will not be made known. What I am telling you in the dark, you must speak in the light. What you hear whispered, you must preach from the housetops.

"Do not be afraid of those who kill the body, but have no power to kill the soul. Rather be afraid of him who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a few cents? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's consent. As for you, every hair of your head has been counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

"Whoever acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my Father in heaven. Whoever rejects me before others I will reject before my Father in heaven."

Commentary:

"Not one sparrow falls to the ground without your Father's consent...So do not be afraid. You are worth much more than many sparrows."

Where are the many of this universe, Where are those in life.

He that who made us assures us through all the vagaries of life.

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Saudi crash kills 5 Pinoys

By Jerry E. Esplanada

FIVE FILIPINOS—INCLUDING a couple, their daughter and their granddaughter—were killed on Wednesday in a road accident in the Al Hasa region of eastern Saudi Arabia.

John Leonard Montemayor, regional coordinator of the Migrant Workers Office in Dammam, identified the fatalities as Rolando Dominguez, his wife, Elizabeth Gonzaga, their daughter, Joyce Hassan, and 5-year-old granddaughter Hope. The fifth fatality was the family's Filipino driver, whose identity was not immediately known.

Citing Saudi news reports, Montemayor said the victims were natives of Kidapawan City, North Cotabato.

He said Roberto was a workshop employee and Elizabeth was a teacher. Joyce, he said, worked as a nurse at the National Guard Hospital in Dhahran.

As of press time, the Department of Foreign Affairs had yet to provide details about the incident.

According to a spokesperson of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa), a sixth passenger of the vehicle, also a Filipina, survived.

Palace website in cyberspace limbo

By TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENT AQUINO CAN'T SEEM on the Office of the President's website, up-to-the-minute news about himself. The reason: It's been down from Day One.

"There are some people complaining that there's no OP website. The website of OPS (Office of the Press Secretary) is up," Secretary Edwin Lacierda, presidential spokesperson, said yesterday.

The problem is that the person who created the site in the previous Arroyo administration could not be traced, Lacierda said.

"That is one of the tendencies that we're faced with. The person in charge of the website has gone abroad. And we're trying to locate him," he told reporters in a briefing.

A TV reporter, however, said she also was back in Manila.

For now, photos and videos of Mr. Aquino as well as stories about him and the presidency are being uploaded on the OPS website, ops.gov.ph.

Lacierda expressed confidence that once the communications group under the Office of the Press Secretary is formed, all domestic communication glitches would be fixed.

Gazmin: AFP needs values formation

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CAMP AQUINO, TARLAC CITY—While he would not describe the Armed Forces of the Philippines as plagued by corruption, Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin said values formation and transparent transactions have to be done within the organization.

"We are not that the AFP is corrupt. That's not good to hear. There are people who are assailing the wrong may subcom ese need to help so they can straighten up their lives. He need to correct the ways of those people so they would not set bad examples to others, and our government would be working nglobly," Gazmin said here on Thursday.

Gazmin was also commended the AFP The failed mutiny staged by soldiers belonging to the Magdalo group in 2003 was sparked by, among other things, supposed administration deals and corruption in the AFP and neglect by the national government.

Gazmin, a former Army chief and defense attaché in Washington D.C., said he would review the programs and transactions of the AFP to determine how much the government had to contribute.

Good manners

Heeding it use, he said, needed "transparency in all dealings."

"We will really have to inculcate good manners so that the good of the many is upheld," he said.

Gazmin said addressing the problems of soldiers is important in ensuring that the incoming administration would not face an uprising from the military.

"I think there would be no coup d'etat if we get to the bottom of problems, if we get to talk about things we need to talk about so that [that] [would] stop problems (the problems would not worsen)," he said.

He said the threat of the Department of National Defense is to modernize and modernize the AFP, which received about 18 percent of the 2010 budget.

"We're trying to look at this. We will try to put up solutions," he said.

He said the government would "try to keep up with the defense policies and enhance the [modernization] [counterpart]."

Gazmin also denied reports that members of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1976, the class that adopted former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as honorary member, are being ousted over the AFP.

"The there been any move to that effect? There's no one. We're not de-mooning people. Maybe you move them laterally or vertically but bringing them out. Nobody is doing that. That is not the aim of the AFP," he said.

Former AFP chief of staff, Gen. Delfin Bangit, a member of PMA Class 1978, filed for an early retirement after Defense chief Angelino Gazmin said he would replace him.

With the early retirement of some AFP officers, Gazmin said the AFP has to "move people to fill in the gap."

NPA ambush kills 7 soldiers

By Jocelyn R. Uy

COMMUNIST GUERRILLAS KILLED SEVEN soldiers in an ambush in Sorsogon Province yesterday, military officials said.

The attack was the deadliest known action launched by the 5,000-member New People's Army (NPA) since President Aquino took office on June 30.

The soldiers onboard a military truck were traversing between the villages of Salvacion and Sawmill in Bacon town at about 11:30 a.m. yesterday when a still undetermined number of NPA fighters staged the attack, said Army spokesperson Maj. Rodolfo Mendez in a text message to the Inquirer.

Mendez said the soldiers of the 54th Infantry Battalion were tasked to secure a village for a medical mission set for today by the Armed Forces.

"Reinforcing troops are still en pursuit operations against the attackers," he said.

Col. Efren Dondoy, the unit's 901st Brigade commander, said among those killed was a junior officer, a company commander. Police identified the officer as First Lt. Lito Pantin.

"The casualties also carried away the firearms of our soldiers killed in the ambush," Dondoy told reporters.

LTO chief lawyer, Noynoy's shooting buddy, Ninoy scholar

From page A1 /

Malacañan presidential palace. Records at the Land Transportation Office (LTO) show that Aquino was a frequent visitor to the agency's Quezon City headquarters during the term of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

According to the website of the St. Mary's Tennis Club in Forbes City:

After two years serving the scholars of Mr. Aquino's choice because the rules against copyrighted essays of the government's youth scholar, he was Forbes governor and manager of Hacienda Luisita.

'Obey traffic rules'

Tugade addressed LTO personnel as their chief for the first time yesterday, vowing to transform the corruption-ridden agency into a model government body.

He said if President Aquino could obey traffic rules, so could the rest of the population.

He also issued this warning to her closest relatives and friends: "Do not take your relationship as family and friends as a privilege to be kings and queens of the roads...to be immune from rules. Please be reminded."

Earlier this week the LTO would take the lead in the conclusion on the use of "mayaparang" or sirens by private citizens and politicians. With a report from Paolo G. Montecillo

Back to 1st choice: Robredo to DILG

From page A1 /

was assuming the DILG portfolio amid speculation that Robredo was to take over his post.

'In a rush'

Ethem Lacierda, Mr. Aquino's official spokesperson, said the President was "in a rush" to appoint a DILG head. "It's really difficult to be both Presidential and concurrently the DILG secretary," said Lacierda.

Robredo, who holds a masteral degree in public administration from Harvard University, counts varsity time among the activities he has honored on him as a public official.

His election remains—by law subject to six three-year terms from 1988 to 1998 then 2001 to 2010—could be considered proof of his political skills.

Robredo defeated the protégé of Luis Sobredo Villafuerte, one of Bicol's most influential political leaders and Imelda's sometime-opposition governorship under the late President Corazon Aquino.

Jose Ramon Gella, second cousin of Robredo's late husband Jesse, said Robredo knew how to use power without offending his opponents.

"He has learned to use power but not carelessly," said Buenaventura. "He sets certain limits and would not cross them."

Efforts to get in touch with Robredo failed as his phone rumbled soon after the announcement of his appointment.

Lacson's man

Ahead of Robredo, Mr. Aquino appointed former police officer Magtanggol Gatdula as head of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and Aurelio Trampe as head of the National Food Authority (NFA).

Gatdula was Lacson's schoolmate in the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) class of 1970 and was Lacson's most trusted consultant.

Their appointments, particularly that of Gatdula, became controversial because of their connection with the fugitive senator.

Before Secretary Leila de Lima

Br. Luistro ready . . .

From page A1

But, it was not his own thoughts or opinion that he spoke of. He talked about other people's good intentions.

In a briefing yesterday at the Department of Education, Luistro said the biggest hurdle in resolving the controversy was the "different definitions" of sex education that were being used by opposing parties.

The former president of De La Salle University and staunch critic of the previous administration said Church and academic groups defending the issue did not see eye to eye on the very definition of sex education.

"When I talk to one group, they raise their position. They use harsh words to make their point. Then another group will give an Godpositive. They use harsh words to make their point. Then another group will give an Godpositive, and their definition of sex education is totally (different)," he told reporters.

"That's the biggest problem . . . The best way in order [for politicians] is to bring these people together," he said.

The bridge

Luistro said he would try to serve as a bridge between the stakeholders. He would even face them to find a common ground and build consensus.

"I want to talk to people who are open. We must respect and be open that there are opinions different from ours," he said.

But when asked for his personal position, Luistro said his opinion on sex education was much less important than the consensus and dialogue to reveal what he really thought of sex education or how he would define it.

"You can surreal guess my position based on that. I came from academe. I am Catholic. I am Filipino," he said.

Luistro admitted that he himself had misunderstood at first the concept of sex education. He said he was initially against the idea of sex education in school.

"I was against it because I thought it was going to be taught in the classroom. Now, I realize that it is not," he said.

FINDING COMMON GROUND Education Secretary Br. Armin Luistro tells reporters during a media briefing that he wants to build consensus on the issue of sex education. (R-MARC HUDILLA)

New AFP plan vs Reds stresses human rights

From page A1

strategy to defuse the decades-old communist insurgency.

"We will be enhancing the Provision that we will be crafting new plans and guidelines [on counterinsurgency measures] with human rights at the forefront and as a priority," Maburia said in a phone interview.

Ojalan Bantay Laya expired

The military, as well as the police, was included the principal violators of human rights while fighting communist insurgents during the administration of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Human rights groups blamed the military's Oplan Bantay Laya, which expired when Mr Arroyo stepped down on June 30, for the rise in the killings and "enforced disappearances" of left-wing members and political activists.

Oplan Bantay Laya purportedly targeted even members of above-ground leftist political parties to help Ms Arroyo meet her deadline to wipe out the communist insurgency by the end of her term.

The insurgency has been one of the tough-as security problems confronting the Philippines. The late dictator Marcos used the iron fist approach but he failed to defeat it.

His successor, Corazon Aquino, the incumbent President's mother, tried solving it through peace talks but failed.

The military has claimed rebelling down the strength of the New People's Army to 5,700 from a peak of over 25,000 during Marcos' time.

3-year timetable

Maburia said the AFP would present to Mr Aquino its new self-imposed timetable for defeating the communist insurgency. When its task office last week, David said the military would try to eliminate insurgency within years.

"This is the 60% self-imposed deadline and we see that we will be able to attain objectives to move in three years from all of those are recommendatory and for the approval of the President," Maburia said.

Monday's meeting is expected to come up with specific plans to expedite the mediconclusion of the AFC which has been described as among the most ill-equipped military organizations in Southeast Asia.

"We also anticipate that the President will be coming up with additional policies and instructions for the conduct of internal security operations, external security and other activities," Maburia said.

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Palace: No Merci in Bolante investigation

Frances Mangosing
Inquirer Research

Witness: Ombudsman may use raps to stop Lorenzo from testifying

By Leila B. Salaverria
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU—AMID SOUTH RETURN for hooped hopes that there would finally be closure to the fertilizer fund controversy, especially for those whose lives were upended by it.

John Resterio, a confirmed runner to the food scare, said he was looking forward to seeing the day when the truth had been anything or the heroes and lengthening a number of personalities.

But Resterio is also worried that the Office of the Ombudsman might derail any new inquiry into the matter, especially now that its fact-finding panel had recommended the filing of charges against Lorenzo and former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante.

Resterio said the recommendations might be used to stop Lorenzo from testifying at another inquiry.

"I think the Ombudsman recommended the charges against Bolante and Lorenzo because of the Senate's plan to investigate the fertilizer fund scam. Of course, they will reveal the master mind, so the Ombudsman preempted them so that the case 'becomes' Bolante will be useless," he told the Inquirer.

Resterio believes that Lorenzo can link Arroyo to the fund scam and thus bring closure to the issue.

"If [Lorenzo] tells the truth, this will be over," he said. "It's important to know who issued the orders [to release the fund]. Bolante said nobody ordered him to release it. How would he release the fund if there was no authorization from the President?"

Resterio lost a regular job, but he still has safety and financial himself short of money after circling to speak up on the scam.

But he said he was still willing to cooperate in any inquiry.

Resterio said that Bolante should not be included in any more probes because his role in the scam was already done, and that he might try to use the probe to muddle the issue so as clear himself.

And former Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap, who has signified willingness to cooperate in a new probe, may not be of much help either, Resterio said.

He said Yap had the chance to stretch the provisions in quotes but was out of touch help.

Lacierda said that after the congressional inquiries into the fertilizer fund scam, the public knew more or less where those were headed but that "gaps" arose as a result of witnesses' fear to come forward.

"For instance, there was a gap in the evidence created because Lorenzo went into exile. Now that he's back, we can now gather more solid evidence," Lacierda said.

"This is not prejudging. We're just looking at where the evidence will bring us," he said.

Lacierda said the Arroyo administration's decision of Garcillano was proved when the Office of the Ombudsman cleared Arroyo and husband Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo of liability in the unsolved $329-million National Bureau of Investigation deal with China's PRC Corp., ruling her immunity from suit and insufficient evidence, respectively.

Gutierrez, a classmate of Mike Arroyo's at Ateneo de Manila University, inhibited herself from the case.

Lacierda said Gutierrez could be impeached for betrayal of public trust, among other grounds provided in the Constitution.

He could not say whether Garcillano's closeness to the Arroyo couple was sufficient ground to impeach her.

In the end, he said, it would be up to the House of Representatives to determine whether Gutierrez's association with the Arroyos or the Office of the Ombudsman's ruling clearing them of liability in the $884.2 TEL deal would be sufficient grounds for impeachment.

Lacierda said any citizen could file the impeachment complaint.

Sen. Francis Escudero earlier said that Gutierrez should have agreed only the completed term of her predecessor, Simeon Marcelo, which ended in October 2004.

After 5 years of inquiry, Ombudsman says Cito, Joc-joc liable

Frances Mangosing
Inquirer Research

The Office of the Ombudsman presented it a great confidence in the results of the five-year field investigation that found Lorenzo's then undersecretary, Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante, also liable for the same charges, as well as for falsification and a string of administrative complaints.

It ordered the two men to explain their involvement in the purported diversion of the fund for farm inputs and endorsements to favored politicians to boost the presidential campaign of then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in 2004.

Assistant Ombudsman Jose de Jesus, the Ombudsman's spokesperson, said the fact-finding investigators had yielded "no evidence" to implicate Arroyo.

But this does not mean that Arroyo, now the representative of Pampanga's second district, is totally off the hook. There are new evidence may still be found during the preliminary investigation, he said.

"We are glad that [Lorenzo] is back," De Jesus said. "This means we can now complete our investigation."

Red Extercity of the Philippines, professor Harry Roque qualified the Office of the Ombudsman for its "half-baked" resolution.

Roque said the Ombudsman should have recommended charges of plunder and not malversation of public funds, against Lorenzo and Bolante, and also included Arroyo in the charges.

He said that with the Ombudsman's resolution, "the Filipino people are screwed again."

Completed this month

The Ombudsman's fact-finding team, which started its inquiry in 2005 and purportedly completed it this month, recommended that Lorenzo and Bolante be indicted for graft and malversation along with 42 others.

Bolante et al. may also be liable for falsification, neglect of duty and grave misconduct, the fact-finding team said.

De Jesus said Lorenzo had "allegedly [given] Bolante a free hand in the disposition of funds," which could have been behind the farming scam assigned by the Ombudsman of funds.

The fact-finding team's recommendations, however, are still subject to the Ombudsman's own preliminary investigation, which thus allows the respondents in the case to submit counter-affidavits.

Lorenzo et al. have 10 days upon receipt of the Ombudsman's order to file their defense.

The preliminary investigation team shall decide if there is probable cause to file charges against Lorenzo et al. with the Sandiganbayan.

But De Jesus said not right when pressed for a time frame within which the preliminary investigation should be completed.

2nd complaint

This is already the second complaint from the Ombudsman's fact-finding team involving the fertilizer fund scam.

Last year, the Ombudsman's field investigation office filed graft and technical malversation complaints against Lorenzo, Bolante, Reterno and 63 others, including former Representatives Nanette Daza and Federico Sandoval II, et al. with the Ombudsman's preliminary investigation panel.

The first complaint landed into the results of the inquiry by then Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr.'s committee on agriculture during the 11th Congress that recommended the filing of charges against Lorenzo and Bolante.

It was not, however, a preliminary investigation, which was supposedly completed in January 2004. But the case was again referred for further investigation after the Senate blue ribbon committee of the 14th Congress terminated yet another inquiry under Sen. Richard Gordon.

Said the Ombudsman in a statement: "The special panel handling the fertilizer scam was almost done with its preliminary investigation when the Senate blue ribbon committee chaired by ... Gordon submitted its report on its investigation on the said case."

The fact-finding team again looked into the report of the Commission on Audit on the preliminary investigation on the first complaint was suspended, De Jesus said.

Difficult probe

De Jesus claimed that there was no delay in the Ombudsman's probe. He said the fertilizer fund scam was difficult to investigate to start with, considering that more than 100 officials were involved and the deal is the size of the food crossed almost the entire country.

He also denied reports about the timing of the release of the fact-finding results, saying: "We follow our mandates to investigate cases. We will release the results as soon as we complete our investigation. Let us trust the Ombudsman."

But then, the first complaint and the second supplemental complaint will be consolidated by the Ombudsman's Preliminary Investigation Administration Adjudication and Monitoring Office for referral to a special panel for a preliminary investigation.

The Office of the Ombudsman added that the fact-finding investigation was still ongoing "to identify other personalities who may also be involved or have participated in the anomaly, or who may be held liable for plunder."

Immunity

Lorenzo fled the country in 2003, as reads the Senate inquiry into the food scam.

De Jesus did not dismiss the possibility of Lorenzo serving as a state witness in the prosecution of the case, saying the Ombudsman has the authority to grant immunity to a possible state witness subject to the scrutiny and evaluation of the Office of the Ombudsman."

But he could not say whether Lorenzo was qualified for immunity, given the fact that he played major role in the fund scam.

In Junior Secretary Lolia de Guzman's estimation, it will not be easy for Lorenzo to get off the hook.

"Immunity is subject to evaluation. It's not easily done, it's not automatic. There is a process and there are requirements," De Guzman told reporters when asked if it was possible for the government to give Lorenzo immunity in exchange for disarming information.

"We still have to study the findings of the Senate committee," she said.

Gutierrez's loyalty

In a statement, late professor Roque also said the recommended charges against Lorenzo and Bolante proved Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez's loyalty to the former First Couple.

It was Arroyo who appointed Gutierrez, a former classmate of her husband Jose Miguel Arroyo, to the post of Ombudsman.

"As if in cue with the homecoming of Cito Lorenzo, the Ombudsman's office has issued a recommendation of bodily against Bolante and Lorenzo instead of plunder in connection with the fertilizer fund scam," Roque said, pointing out that unlike plunder, malversation was a bailable offense.

He also said the Ombudsman's decision to absolve Arroyo in the charges because she no longer enjoyed immunity.

"What was the use of sticking on the fertilizer scam case for five years if the Ombudsman did not charge one who no longer has presidential immunity after she finally took action on the case?" Roque said. With reports from Alexis Pajes and Norman Bordadora

Case of 'automated mystery': Mar files protest vs Binay

Frances Mangosing
Inquirer Research

ness on Elections (Comelec). The elections marked the first nationwide automated polls in the Philippines.

"[Pimentel] respectfully prays that the honorable tribunal ... annul and set aside the proclamation of Jejomar C. Binay ... and proclaim Manuel A. Roxas as the duly elected Vice President," Roxas said in his protest.

Binay confident

The Binay camp is confident the tribunal will uphold his victory.

"It is correct that the proper remedy in an election protest. But if [Roxas] wished to due to the existence of the poll votes ... Mar Roxas stands to lose a second time," said lawyer Jose Bautista, Binay's spokesperson during the canvassing process.

Comelec officials rejected and to cast the Roxas protest and said that the machine count should prevail.

Commissioners Resurrection Borra and Gregorio Larrazabal said manual recount had no place and bearing in the age of automated elections.

Binay beat Roxas by 727,084 votes.

Anomalously high'

Roxas' election lawyer Joey Tenebrosa said the result of the race could have been different had the more than three million null votes been counted.

Tenebrosa could be humiliated by reasons including incorrect shading so ballot casts that could not be read by the computer machine—called precinct count optical scanners (PCOS)—or by picking more than one candidate for vice president.

"The inconceivably high incidence of null/misread votes is ... crucial for the vice presidential contest, especially in light of the narrow margin between the proponent and protestee," Roxas said.

Roxas also claimed that Comelec and machine supplier Smartmatic-TIM removed crucial safeguards in the automation. "Thus causing the fraud, anomalies, irregularities, statistical improbabilities and system-wide electoral fraud in the vice presidential contest."

"As it is, the proclamations of [Binay] was based on figures plagued by operations that wrapped and anomalies that engulfed the automated elections at the PCOS machine," Roxas said.

Protest is nationwide

Tenebrosa said reporters: "Our protest is nationwide because the running three elections will voice came from provinces nationwide. If we know what really happened in these null votes, the outcome could change."

The protest said it was anomalous that there "millions of votes were highest provinces but Roxas won and how to reconcile Binay took.

The protest said there were also several PCOS machines that transmitted the results of the final counting of the machines instead of the actual results in the elections. "This is a fact officially admitted and documented by the Comelec when its [Comelec] Advisory Council ... admitted that the machines transmitted the final results instead of the actual results in the elections," it said.

It said that "in almost all parts of the country", the boards of canvassers transmitted "incomplete" results in the vice presidential contest.

This was purportedly the result of the improper boards being instructed to lower the canvassing threshold or the number of votes that needed to be canvassed before they were transmitted.

Safeguard mechanisms

"With the huge volume of contested votes for the vice presidency, it is of monumental importance to determine the true will of the electorate as to their vice presidency," the protest said.

But while the Supreme Court upheld the conduct of the automated election system, the crucial safeguards were not implemented.

"The outcome was ... anomalous, as the safeguard mechanisms were compromised."

The protest cited the absence of a review of the source code, systematic problems on how the PCOS reads ballots, lack of transmission protocols and even an absence of a proper random manual audit.

"Determining the will of the electorate in the vice presidential contest therefore requires inquiries in a forensic analysis of the hardware and software components of the AES [automated election system], including the source code, PCOS machine, compact flash cards and transmission data and protocols as well as a proper manual audit as required by law."

Roxas' lawyers have paid a P100,000 filing fee and made a P200,000 deposit to start the protest proceedings. The total cost of the protest could easily run up to the tune of millions, poll experts say.

Forensic analysis

Tenebrosa said that before the automated election, teachers on the boards of election inspectors determined what could be considered null votes. In the test elections, he said it was the counting machines that excluded the supposed null votes from the tally.

"Out of the process is to look at the ballots if there were really no votes or if the machines just didn't read the votes for [whatever] reason," Tenebrosa said.

The lawyer said: "Under the rules of the presidential election tribunal, there's a process that the ballots should go through the PCOS. But for us, before it goes through the PCOS machine, we are also asking for forensic analysis."

"Without the forensic analysis of the system, any recount through the PCOS would remain suspect.

A spokesperson for President Arroyo said the President respected Roxas' right to file a protest, but had no further comment.

Binay's lawyer Bautista said that Roxas' prayer for a manual recount would be against the rules of the automated election.

"What they can do is to again run the ballots through the computer. ... If they are asking for a manual recount, that cannot be," Bautista said.

He said Roxas' protest "shows that the old adage that there are no losers in national elections, only those who are cheated, is still very much with us." With a report from Reuters

INQUIRER Visayas

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Julius Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Bonoan

Iloilo artists paint to save mangroves

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Iloilo City

THE IMAGES ARE poignant, angry and enchanting.

Eland and century-old mangroves in acrylic re-centers and in various hues stare at mall goers passing by the new art exhibit.

"They hit you right in the gut. In many ways, it tells our message in a better and more effective manner," says retired scientist and environmentalist Jacqueze Primavera.

Primavera, who has in the past 40 years advocated the preservation and protection of mangroves, says the paintings are a unique contribution of Broggo artists to dramatize the plight of mangroves.

The 27 paintings, which were exhibited at SM City from May 20 to June 4, are displayed at the Iloilo City campus of the University of the Philippines in the Visayas until July 16. They were produced by 38 Iloilo-based professional and amateur artists during an on-the-spot painting session at the Dolores Bay in Ajuy municipality in Iloilo on May 24.

"Ajuy Mangrove Trail" painted by Nonie Noble

"SANGTINGAYO" by PG Zuluaga

"TAGULOAN sa Ajuy" by JT Tino

Interaction

The session, dubbed "Art for Innovation with the Environment," was jointly organized by the Guimaras-based Mangrove Rehabilitation Project in the Philippines (CMRP) of the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), which Primavera heads, and in partnership with the municipal government of Ajuy, 87 km. south of Iloilo City.

Timed with the commemoration of the Month of the Ocean, the artists brought their brushes, canvases and other materials to the Pedada Bay, which has some 90 hectares of mangroves dominated by the "propagule" species Rhizophora stylosa.

The painting session was joined by members of the area association of the Philippines, Timbak Artisans, Kuri Broggo, and five arts students of the University of San Agustin and Western Visayas College of Science and Technology.

Appreciation

The artists interacted with fisherfolk belonging to the Barangay Dulangan Fisheries Association, says PG Zuluaga, an Ilo-Ilo-based artist who mentored the activity with Primavera.

Primavera says the paintings provide a wider venue for the appreciation of the importance of mangroves aside from serving as fish sanctuaries and breeding grounds, many species serve as a crucial buffer zone between land and sea which help block floods and tsunamis.

"At scientists, we possess precise data and quantifiable benefits of coastal resource protection. In many ways, artists are more effective in bringing the message across especially to change the consumer perception of mangroves as wastelands, muddy and mosquito-infested," Primavera says.

According to Primavera and Estrepa, this is the first time that Iloilo artists were involved in a painting session to help the mangrove conservation advocacy.

"We are glad that more eyes are seeing mangroves the way advocates have and to also appeal for their protection," Primavera says.

More than a painting session, Zuluaga says the artists helps deepen the artists' understanding of the urgent need to help protect the environment. "They showed how they feel and what they see in their paintings. We are thinking of making this an annual event," he says.

The exhibit has attracted interest even among ordinary persons who have bought several paintings.

Zuluaga says the artists have pledged half of the proceeds from the sale to the Pedada fisherfolk association to help the mangroves prosper the mangroves. The association, which has 284 members, is involved in conservation and rehabilitates mangroves by setting up nurseries, planting seedlings and saplings in degraded areas, establishing boundaries (to prevent growing plants), and constructing a foot walk for mangroves restoration.

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Across the NATION

Mortar kills boy in evacuation site

CAMP SIONGCO, MAGUINDANAO—A THREE-year-old boy was killed and six other people, including three other children, were wounded when a mortar from roaming armed groups landed on a shelter for evacuees in the border of Maguindanao and North Cotabato, the military here said.

Brig. Gen. Adolfo Bernardo, deputy commander of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said the victims were civilians displaced by the long-running (the Family Feud) between Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) guerrillas and lumad-led armed group operating in Pedro Paganis, a village in the boundary of Datu Piang in Maguindanao and Pikit in North Cotabato.

Bernardo said one of the mortars landed on an evacuation site in the center of the village just noon on Thursday.

He said killed was Mohammad Akmal, 3, while the wounded were identified as Asnijah Basim, 9; Lapa Lapa Kasim, 4; Teton Pasandig, 10; Fatimah Bakit, 29; Marlaina Sali, 14; and Teraham Abdul, 32.

Bernardo said Datu Us, a field commander of the MILF and armed followers of his relative, former Us, were involved in the strife.

The warring groups have been fighting for almost three weeks now, said Bernardo.

The MILF, however, said the military was responsible for the civilian casualties.

In a statement, the MILF said soldiers fired mortars at an MILF position near the village.

Bernardo denied the MILF claim, saying the Army did not participate in the armed conflict.

He said while soldiers were deployed near the village, they were cautionary.

"We never engaged any of the groups," he said.

The Bishops-lead Intervention Monitoring Group, which keeps watch over a truce declared between the government and MILF, is now investigating, said Bernardo.

Aside from the Datu Piang-area attack, MILF rebels are also engaged in a dispute with members of the Moro Bonifacio Liberation Front (MBLF) in the coastal villages of Maguindanao and Cotabato Provinces since last month.

More than 10,000 civilians have already fled their homes after followers of MILF commander Amy Cabaltog and MBLF commander Wendy Kuero clashed.

"This is beginning to bring us problems," Brig. Gen. Ernesto Anachoret, commander of the Army's 602nd Infantry Brigade, told reporters. Edwin Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

Slain militant leader warned vs membership in Red groups

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO, ARLOS—ILOILO BOND Moro leader and Abilan town councilor Fernando Baldemoro received a sealed death threat from a purported anti-insurgency group in Western Visayas before the May 10 elections, a few months before he was gunned down.

Baldemoro's widow, Christine, said the two-page letter, with a black ribbon printed on top, was sent to their home during the campaign period in April.

The letter, which indicated a private address of Metro District in Iloilo City, accused Baldemoro of being supported by the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA).

Enemy

"We know for a fact that you are a candidate supported by the CPP-NPA. Ignoring this warning means that you are indeed an ally of the CPP-NPA or even one of them. If this is so, you are considered an enemy of democracy and the rest is up to us," the letter read.

It was signed by a certain Romeo Socrates J. Ledesma, who claimed to be the spokesperson of the Western Visayas active-reserve force, a previously unheard of group.

"My husband at first thought it was from an anti-communist public list group but it was obviously sent from a fictitious address and using a pseudonym," Christine said in the wake of her husband.

Motorcycle assassins

Baldemoro, 61, chair of the Abilan chapter of Bayan Muna, was shot dead early Monday by an unidentified gunman in front of his house in Barangay Buenavista Kalibo in front of his 13-year-old son.

The gunman and his companion fled on board a motorcycle driven by an accomplice.

He was the first political activist killed under the Arroyo administration.

Baldemoro's most underpinned after the declaration of martial law in 1972 when he was jailed in Iloilo City in 1981 but he had reportedly denied allegations that he still has links with the CPP-and NPA after he was released from detention in 1986.

Same letter

He was elected to a second term as councilor of Lutes in the May 10 elections.

Former party-list representative and Bayan Muna national president Satur Ocampo said several other candidates, allies and supporters of Bayan Muna in Western Visayas received the same letter.

"The letter was one part of attempts to scare off our members and allies so we will have in the elections," Ocampo said or a press conference in Kalibo on Wednesday.

Investigators have not identified the suspects in Baldemoro's killing but were looking at the killing's link to the grenade attack on Baldemoro's ancestral house in Lutes on March 19.

A PURSE Dedet dengue patients packing a room in Dasca del Sur Provincial Hospital as the death toll from the mosquito-borne disease continues to rise. More and more patients, most of them children, are being confined for dengue. (MARVIN RECAMADAS/INQUIRER)

Hospitals packed with dengue victims

THE DENGUE MENACE HAS grown, killing dozens of mostly children nationwide and raising the alarm bells in many provinces where public health officials are now trying to cope with a constantly increasing number of victims.

In Southern Mindanao, health officials are scrambling for water to prevent more fatalities following the deaths of 29 people, mostly children, in Davao City alone since January.

Salvador Ferrer, Department of Health assistant regional director, said more than half of 2,100 cases in the region are in Davao.

"We are now considering declaring an outbreak," said Ferrer in a phone interview.

What makes the situation alarming, he said, was the corresponding increase in the number of cases.

"There is an increase (in the number of cases) between 15-19 percent compared to the same period last year," he said.

The DOH, he said, was puzzled at the sharp increase in the number of cases this year because dengue season wasn't expected to set in until the end of the rains.

"We still don't know what caused this increase," he said.

In Digos City, the high number of deaths since January prompted the city disaster coordinating council (CDCC) to urge Mayor Joseph Pedaa to issue an executive order declaring a state of calamity.

Bilagon Bongo, city health officer, said since January to early July, at least 13 dengue patients had already died while more than 600 others had been diagnosed with the mosquito-borne disease.

The number of cases was highest in at least three villages. Bongo said out of 20 villages, only four are dengue-free.

Bongo said he had ordered the city's field officers to draft the executive order for the declaration of a state of calamity.

"We have to act now," said the mayor.

He said the city government would help the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) acquire the medicine needed to extract plasma and platelets from donated blood.

Dengue patients have to go to Davao City to seek their relatives' help to donate blood.

Dr. Simeon Dumaliglong, Davao del Sur health chief, said a dengue epidemic has already been declared in the province.

In Albay, officials were on heightened alert following a surge in the number of dengue cases.

At least 364 people, mostly children, had been stricken with the disease, according to health officials there. There were only 95 cases last year.

Albay Gov. Joey Salceda said the number of cases this year was 10 times higher. Therefore, said, could be the effect of the dry spell, which put people out of work, unable to maintain their health and become highly vulnerable to dengue.

"Until now we are still battling the effect of the dry spell," said Salceda.

"People are getting sick. They cannot work," he said.

In Negros Occidental, Gov. Alfredo Marañon said he ordered patrolmen be given to the campaign against dengue to prevent a surge in the number of cases in the province.

Board Member Melvin Bindoy, head of a task force against dengue, said 561 people have been afflicted with dengue compared to last 279 last year.

Three deaths were reported in Bago City and Himamaylan. Jerwin Garces, Elida Aguilera, Orlando Dery and Nestor Corrales, Inquirer Mindanao, and Mar S. Arguelles, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Town follows lead of Noy, removes sirens from its cars

SAN PEDRO, LAGUNA—THE municipal government of this town ordered the removal of sirens and blinkers from 40 of its vehicles, claiming it is the first local government unit to follow the lead of President Aquino.

On Friday, sirens and blinkers were seized from government vehicles in the town, including those of village officials.

Mr. Aquino refused to use sirens or blinkers in his vehicles to set an example after denouncing in his inaugural speech traffic abuses committed by people who had installed these gadgets in their cars.

The law decrees Presidential Mission, through Presidential Decree No. 96, had declared as unlawful the use of sirens and blinkers on vehicles other than those used by officials authorized to use the gadgets.

Former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo issued Administrative Order No. 122 in ordering all government officials to abide by the Marcos decree.

"This is a very simple rule. We should lead by example," said town Mayor Calixto Cataquiz.

The mayor stopped using a siren in his vehicle, said municipal administrator officer Linda Sevenradio.

In Albay, Gov. Joey Salceda said the presidential and Inspection of sirens and similar gadgets should be regulated by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Manufacturers of these gadgets, Salceda said, must be required to register the serial numbers of these gadgets at the Land Transportation Office.

Mr. Aquino chose to keep standing at the finally residence on Times Street in Quezon City, turning down his request to be escorted with sirenetic escort but without sirens or blinkers.

He got stuck in traffic once, arriving at a Mass at Manila Cathedral about an hour late. Mr. Aquino, however, refused to reverse his decision not to use sirens or blinkers. Marlene Cinco and Roy M. Nazol, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Move to postpone barangay polls gains more supporters

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—TWO MORE members of the House of Representatives joined a growing list of legislators supporting the postponement of barangay and youth council elections in October.

Representatives Anthony Golez (Bacolod) and Emmanuel Piczon (Barangay) filed a bill seeking to move the date of the two elections from October this year to October 2010 next.

Golez, who became famous as a spokesperson of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, said House Bill No. 1098 has nationwide support as it was conceived by Representatives Eddie Gaviz (Quezon) and Eric Singson (Ilocos Sur).

Golez on Thursday said he sought the postponement of the elections because of the budget deficit and to save funds for the elections for priority programs instead.

These programs, he said, were the construction of more classrooms, delivery of health services and housing.

Poll cost

He said in 2007, the government spent at least P2 billion to hold barangay elections. This year's elections, he said, would cost more than P3 billion.

He added that people in local communities are still reeling from the disbursement caused by the May 10 elections and cannot afford to fund.

The Iloilo rep urges Barangay in Bacolod City in a resolution passed on June 25, urged Congress to introduce a bill to postpone the October 2010 barangay elections to October 2013.

The resolution was signed by majority of the members of the Bacolod-Lapu-ng-ngo Barangay.

The league said barangay officials and the Lapu-ng-ngo Barangay favored the postponement of the barangay elections since October 2008 was too close to the recently concluded May 10 elections.

Divisive exercise

Candidates, their friends, relatives, supporters and people in the villages have yet to recover from the divisions that resulted from the May 10 the league resolution said.

It added that funds to be used for the elections could be best used to pursue projects and programs that would benefit the villagers and for the purposes of the Aquino administration.

The Lapu resolution added that there would be enough time to prepare for the barangay elections in October, which would involve the election of barangay chairmen, councilmen and lone governing Kabataan officials in all 42,000 barangays nationwide.

The Comelec earlier said it would not use precinct-count optical scan (PCOS) machines that were used last May 10 elections in barangay and SK elections would be counted manually.

Earlier, Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri said he supported a postponement of the elections.

Negros Occidental Representatives Anthony Peter Golez 1th district and Alfredo Abelardo Benitez (2nd district) also expressed support for the postponement of the elections.

RP winning fight vs malaria–DOH

By Joey E. Espinosa

FINALLY, THE COUNTRY IS WINNING the battle against one of its old health adversaries—mosquito-borne malaria.

The good news came from Dr. Mario Baquilod, head of the Infectious Diseases Office of the Department of Health-attached Center for Disease Prevention and Control.

"Yes, we're winning the war. Malaria cases have been going down during the past couple of years. From more than 70,000 (shortage) (with over 900 deaths) in 1990, malaria cases were down to 10,781 (with 30 deaths) last year," Baquilod has told the Inquirer.

From a 1.3-percent (per 100,000 population) in 2008, the country's malaria mortality rate is now a low 0.02 percent, said the World Health Organization.

Baquilod also expressed confidence "we're on track meeting the country's Millennium Development Goal of becoming malaria-free by 2020."

More good news

More good news. Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement, Inc. (PRRM) one of DOH's partners in the antimalaria campaign, has been named recipient of a $35.4-million (about P1.46-billion) grant from the Global Fund.

The two-year aid is expected to "boost further the intensified drive against malaria in at least 40 provinces nationwide," said PRRM program manager Hazel Ibarra-Orobia.

The Geneva-based Global Fund aims to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in at least 136 Third World nations.

Since its inception in 2002, the Fund has provided more than $12 billion worth of grants to at least 136 Third World nations.

Its major donors include the "Group of Eight," or G-8 countries—the US, United Kingdom, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and Russia—as well as private groups like the Bill Gates Foundation.

According to DOH records, of the 80 provinces nationwide, 32 are already malaria-free, or "there has been no local transmission of the disease for five straight years," explained Baquilod.

Thirteen of these provinces are in the Visayas: Biliran, Bohol, Cebu, Capiz, Aklan, Iloilo, Negros Occidental, Siquijor, Southern Leyte, Eastern Samar, Northern Samar, Northern Leyte, Southern Leyte and Bohol.

Substantial decline

Those in Luzon are Aurora, Cavite, Marinduque, Masbate, Rizal, Sorsogon and Quezon (now split into Quezon and Camiguin and Batanes del Norte.

Several other provinces will soon be added to the list, said Baquilod, referring to Bataan, Batanes, Batangas and Lanao del Sur, among others.

On the other hand, only five provinces are listed as "highly endemic" for malaria: Palawan, Quirino, Sarangani, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi.

But even in these areas, "there has been a substantial decline in the number of malaria cases," noted Tesoluna.

"From some 54,000 cases (in the 1990s), infections in Palawan went down to about 6,000 last year. From about 3,000 three years ago, Quirino registered only two cases last year. From 4,000, Agusan had only six cases in 2009. Those in Sulu and Tawi-Tawi are also going down," Tesoluna disclosed.

No water crisis–DENR

By Alcuin Papa

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT and Natural Resources (DENR) yesterday assuaged fears of a water shortage in Metro Manila due to reports that Angat Dam may have reached critical levels despite the start of the rainy season.

"The water situation in Metro Manila remains tight, but there is no water crisis yet. The water level in Angat Dam may have reached critical levels, but supply is still manageable. Land can meet the domestic requirements of Metro Manila's population of 12 million," said Environment Secretary Ramon Paje.

Paje said that despite the recent shutting down of auxiliary power plants due to repair and maintenance work, water concessionaires had been assured of water supply "through the utilization of low level outlets of the reservoir."

"The 23.40-cubic-meters per second (cms) rate will be delivered through these low level outlets," he added.

Engr. Jorge Estrada, a member of the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) technical working group on water management, said they would lower the allocation of Metro Manila's two concessionaires to 32 cms from 33 cms.

The NWRB is an agency under the DENR.

While stressing that the 32-cms allocation was still manageable, Estrada also called on the public to conserve water to "help in demand management."

He said the technical working group had adopted the recommendation of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) to conduct cloud seeding operations over Angat to enhance daily stream rainfall. They needed also coordinate with other government agencies in the cloud seeding.

Estrada said Pagasa had forecast below normal rainfall for July and near normal to normal rainfall for August because of the delayed effects of the El Niño phenomenon. He said the weather bureau was expecting the onset of La Niña by September.

Angat Dam supplies 97 percent of domestic water supply to the National Capital Region (NCR).

According to Pagasa's hydrometeorology division, the water level of Angat Dam as of 8 a.m. yesterday stood at 158.66 meters above mean sea level.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Time to move

EDITORIAL

FOR MANY YEARS AND FOR MANY REASONS, government officials have been talking about moving the country's principal international airport out of Metro Manila. One reason is the congestion at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport for which there is no practicable solution, given the small area on which it sits and its location in the heart of the metropolis. Another is the danger it poses to both passengers and residents because of its proximity to heavily populated subdivisions as well as the Southern Luzon Expressway. Now a third reason for the move has been added, which is air pollution.

On Saturday last week, 30 domestic and international flights had to be diverted to other airports as smog blanketed the area around the airport, causing thousands of passengers to miss appointments and connecting flights, among other inconveniences. Weathermen said a high-pressure weather system trapped the surface air which was thick with smoke, moisture and pollution. "The haze was thick and there was no breeze to clear the sky," an official of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines said.

But it wasn't all because of the smog. The same CAAP official admitted that another reason was the breakdown of a navigational equipment that guides landing and takeoff at night or in bad weather when the visibility is poor. In fact, two weeks earlier 65 flights at the Naia were canceled and five were diverted to the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA) at the Clark Freeport in Pampanga after the 14-year-old navigational equipment (called DVOR) at the Naia, which was already due for replacement, crashed out. Nine days later, 30 incoming flights had to be diverted to Clark or Cebu even as airport authorities debated whether to buy immediately a new DVOR, estimated to cost P120 million, or to toss the decision to the new administration. In the meantime, a different kind of equipment (called RNAV-GPS) was brought in, necessitating an adjustment to aircraft settings and new certification for pilots. When the haze descended at the Naia last Saturday, all aircraft flown by pilots who had not yet been certified for the airport's new navigation system were diverted to other airports. It was the first time that flights to Naia were diverted on account of heavy air pollution.

And it will not be the last time—if it was really caused by smog and not the smugness of airport authorities. The heavy pollution in the metropolis is not about to dissipate any time soon. The growing population, the rising number of motor vehicles, the indifference of citizens and the inaction of public officials guarantee that. If the gateway to the country is to stop being a national embarrassment and banned, it has to be moved somewhere else.

Although it may look a bit ironic, the logical alternative to Naia is DMIA. The old Clark Air Base already has a precision approach runway and emergency services that have passed the safety standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organization, and modern navigational aids and lighting system. It has more than enough space for another runway. All it needs is a terminal that can handle the volume of passengers now going through the Naia as well as the expected increase in the coming years.

There is an executive order, signed by President Fidel Ramos in 1994, designating Clark as the primary international gateway to the country and directing the Bases Conversion Development Authority to come up with a master plan for a modern airport. In 2000, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the Department of Transportation and Communication to convert the DMIA into the country's premier airport. Nothing came of those orders except the opening of the DMIA as an alternate international airport.

The recent flight diversions should prod the Aquino administration to finally put those plans into action. If financing is the problem, the private sector is willing to put up the money. Metro Pacific Investments Corp. and San Miguel Corp. have confirmed their plans to join hands in building a modern passenger terminal at the DMIA at a cost of P7 billion. The plan also includes the construction of an 80-kilometer high-speed railway that will connect the airport to Metro Manila. The government should now invite these two prospective partners to discuss their proposal and determine how it can help them see this urgent project through.

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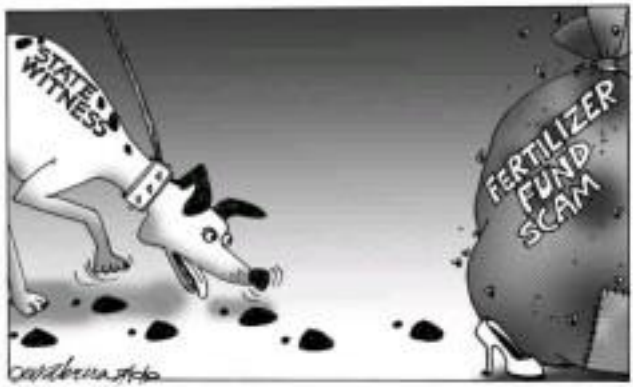

Four gravestone lines

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

THE SILVER AND GOLDEN OF AT THE MIDnight Oriental retired house were at hands in the secluded when the battered car drove up. Shots cut mud, they asked the driver to wait (stained shirt).

At bride's end, the stretcher's door have open. A distraught mother opinion; rushed by nurse, headed for the body drove. "Bishop Claver," she remonstrated, "why didn't you wait for?"

"Had a good lunch," replied the feisty archbishop, and he's home today. No other transfusion available in Mindanao, so he drove a nun, who worked in his staff, to the meeting.

The 81 year-old "Claver" recently died at El Isana recall how 2008, the Malaybalay prelature's radio station, flayed martial law abuses when most preferred safe silence. The military pushed her death in November 1976. "The perfect was (it) exactly met messages to the NPA guerrillas." Fr. John Carroll, SJ recalls. Bishop Claver responded with pastoral letters, critical and hard hitting, "one every week, read in the same in all the parishes. (They have) Mercedes-Benz minds but speak language and even more powerful thoughts."

Others recall his drubbing the 1986 CBCP (Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines) statement on the rigged snap elections. That gutted the Marcos dictatorship's pretensions.

"The same CBCP 'emergency assembly' broke up after six," theologian Fr. Catalino Arevalo recalls. Bishop turned to Claver to express their conclusion on the massive electoral fraud. By Pajero...his didn't sow ready.

"Claver's pastoral statement 16 years after that CBCP president Cardinal Ricardo Vidal rebounds: "These ... point to a criminal use of power to thwart the sovereign will of the people. Sic, despite these evil acts, we are fatally certain the people's real will for change has been truly manifested."

"A government that assumes or retains power through fraudulent means has no moral basis. For such an access to power to metamorphose to a favorable outcome, (it) cannot command allegiance of the citizenry.

"That same government itself has the obligation to right the wrong it is founded on.... The wrong was systematically organized. So must its correction be.... We, the bishops, stand in solidarity with them...."

Vice acting most always be according to the Gospel, that is, it is peaceful, non violent way. But an in the election itself, that depends fully on the people, on what they are willing and ready to do."

John 1 was what Filipinos did. And it wrig gated similar peaceful results. Lech Walesa of Poland told Corazon Aquino in Florence in 1995. After John came Czechoslovakia's "Velvet Uprising," Ukraine's "Orange Revolution" and Georgia's "Rose Rebellion." These toppled pro-Soviet governments without bloodshed. Lebanon's "Cedar Revolution" drove out Syrian occupiers.

Claver authored other texts, less dramatic but no less compelling: from the Second Plenary Council documents to papers on birth and environment.

"Scars on nature will heal inevitably to an extent, even in time," a CBCP statement warned in the late 1980s. "All are caught hours behind in a frantic desire ... Where is the soaring eagle circling our land?"

A reply of sorts came January "Mamfekan," a Philippine eagle released in Mindanao's Mount Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary, gun village. Released with eagle "Kalinaya," both carried tracking devices. "Report of new eagle death shakes conservation efforts," Central Mindanao Newsreach reported.

Claver's book "The Making of a Local Church" reflects his effort at building "basic ecclesial communities" (BECs)—small groups, at parish level, discussing what is right, then acting. Here are excerpts from an interview:

Have we failed to tap People Power to eliminate evil? "For evil there is in the Philippines, great evil." Corruption is systemic.

There is a strong oppression sense that people power, first executed in the political sphere, is basically a moral power. When used wisely as political power, it fails.

People often regard graft as "standard operating procedure." Corruption is not defined as a sin. This is a huge problem of values change. The task will not be done by simply speaking out—"only organized, persistent action will do."

BECs are the vehicle for change. There task is homeless, even shoeless work. Christians must be concerned not just with personal spirituality but with social consideration as well.

Claver insisted on ecumenical liturgies. Only unions of mind and prayer would "make the ecclesial contrast in the lives of those in isolated mountain communities." See all to the Church accept them. But he never tried to impose such views.

"If there is one defect common to the corrupt it is their utter abandonment," he wrote. Can laughter, even ridicule "help to embolden to them an ordinary Filipino sense of love?

"Christ himself constantly used ridicule against the Pharisees of his time. So did Paul .... For laughter and humor can indeed invade—like the birth the corrupt themselves and the victims."

In Jesuit cemeteries, only four lines are etched on each simple headstone: name, followed by those dates—birth, entry into the society of Jesus and death. Enough for a man who lived his life fully. Amen. (vjmercado@yahoo.com and/or mail, purposively, melarangi)

Email: jmercado@inquirer.com

We, the people, in P-Noy's governance

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

I AM NOT ABOUT TO DISSECT THE JOKO phenomenon—I leave that to the political analysts. But one thing is obvious: the campaign platform of good governance and his slogan of "walang corrupt, walang mahirap" are resonated with the Filipino voters. Plus, where his opponents were either known or shown to be corrupt, none of them could make any charges of corruption against him, or of his using his government position for personal gain, and, and I believe anyone brings out the massive examples of Vice President Noli Binay, let me point out (but (a) his reputation for corruption was mostly confined to those who lived or did business in Makati and (b) he was, figuratively, a dark horse—no one knew he was a contender until he was in the game, leaving no time for his record to be examined in the same way that Manny Villar's was put under a microscope.

What the Filipino voters resisted has been, since the early '90s, the subject of a lot of research which confirmed the same resistances as our voters did, although phrased more elegantly, as in these words: "...found a positive relationship between economic growth and the strength of the rule of law, the extent of corruption, property rights, the quality of government bureaucracies and other measures of governance and institutional qualities." The Sachs study at the Harvard Institute for Development, for example, found that the largest factor (accounting for two-thirds to three-fourths of the discrepancies) influencing growth differentials between countries' regimes was government policies and institutions.

The Aquino campaign slogan distills what so much literature has brought out: the strong causal link between governance and development outcomes, and the cost of corruption (or subversion of the rule of law) in terms of such as child mortality rates, income inequality, educational levels and poverty; it reveals the emergence of strong institutions over time; it denotes government investment decisions, as well as optimal management of natural resources; it denotes private investments, foreign and domestic; it attracts talented people to productive activities; it undermines national efforts against disease and drugs, and efforts to restore transport safety. And all those detrimental efforts fall disproportionately on the poor.

While it took Moses and his people 40 years to reach the Promised Land, it does not always to lead his people (both what Raul Hilario calls the Twilight Zone or the Zone of Light, or at least, get us well on our way. The Twilight Zone—where rules and laws are broken with impunity; where there is lack of transparency and plenty of rent-seeking (corruption), and where institutions are weak. The Zone of Light—where laws are obeyed and lawbreakers are punished, where there is transparency and accountability, and where institutions are strong.

Can he do it? There's the rub. He can do it only if we are with him every step of the way—looking over his shoulder and those of other officials, breathing down their necks, exercising constant vetting power on them (check by people), and making sure we use the law. (Who do you think does the corrupting?)

Public Choice Theory provides a framework that shows us how to get to that Zone of Light, although, depressingly enough, its default option is the Twilight Zone. This theory exposes the "rationale" from politics by applying economic principles to it.

In the politicians, government officials/employees and other actors there to serve the people and increase their well-being? No, says public choice theory. The actors in government decision-making—the politicians, voters, lobby groups and the government bureaucracy—have conflicting objectives. The politicians generally aim to maximize not the social-welfare function, but their own desires: their chances for election or reelection, which may require using their positions to acquire financial assets; (2) Noy, the people have elected, is an exception.) The voters, who decide who their leaders are going to be, generally have their decisions not on maximizing the social-welfare function, but their own (rent-seeking, for example, more money, popular image, etc.). The objective of lobby groups is to maximize their own rents—welfare, in a sense (e.g., bribes) that would result in gaining influence disproportionate to their numbers (the concept of "capture"). As for bureaucrats, their objective is often to protect and/or extend their turf, and other individual welfare objectives as well.

Because of these conflicting, selfish (that's economics for you) motives, the collective decisions that result often do not improve public or social well-being.

What to do? We, the people, have to realize that our power as individual decision-makers (and with voting, it begins with it. Please note that the definition of governance includes, among others things, the process by which governments are selected (that's us), monitored (that's us), and replaced (that's us), and the capacity of the government to formulate and implement sound policies (this is where our lobby groups come in to countervail selfserving business lobbies, etc).

Bottom line: With P-Noy, we have excellent initial conditions. If he fails, it is because we have failed. We get the government we deserve. Which is why to me, the most important part of his inauguration was when the different sectors pledged their help.

Can we do it?

NSCB tries to count the rich

SOCIAL CLIMATE

Walter Mongaya

"HOW HIGH IS RICH" IS THE TITLE OF A MEDIA article by Dr. Romulo A. Virola, longtime secretary general of the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB), and his colleagues Jessamine O. Amarillazo and Michelle Vizmanos, with an initial footnote saying that it expresses their own views and not necessarily those of the NSCB.

The footnote caught my eye since it is the NSCB that officially measures Philippine poverty every year, and, however, in other words, the one who officially answers the question "How poor is poor?" are, in this article, only offering a personal or academic answer, not an official or government-policy answer, to the question "How rich is rich?"

The article is rather vague about its underlying definition of "rich." Its closest approach to its definition is "middle income" first, and then to separate the rich. By some process, it ultimately defines "middle income" as the range from P246,399 to P2,000,872 in annual family income in 2006, the latest available reference year of the family income and expenditure survey. Above the range becomes "high income" or rich, and below the range becomes "low income."

Note here that we have got the upper boundary of middle income at over eight times the size of the lower boundary. Also, we have got a very wide range of income, starting at P20,500 per month, all the way up to P166,873 per month, or middle income. Not the millions, being high income or rich means being even in the upper boundary.

In 2006, according to the article, 19.736 families (or 8.1 percent of the estimated total of 17.4 million families) were rich, 5,317,624 million families (or 31 percent) were middle-income, and 24,068,932 families (83.8 percent) were low-income. Since the NSCB had earlier, in March 2008, put the official poverty incidence for 2006 at 26.9 percent, the article would imply that 69.8 – 26.9 = 33.9 percent were low-income, yet are not to be poor.

The article's definition of rich can recover thousand families being rich if the most outraged I have to see.

It is the unfortunate look "The Mother's Guide to Socio-Economic Classification of Consumers," (2002), page 201 studies research puts half Roberts has the following definition of socio-economic classes in the Philippines, based on sociological research in the mid-1980s: 0.3 per cent rich or upper-upper; 4 percent affluent or lower-upper; 13 percent prosperous or upper-middle; 28 percent average or lower-middle; 33 percent below par or upper-lower; and 43.3 percent poor or lower-lower. (For decades, Filipino consumer researchers have successfully used three socio-class systems like AB, C, D and E, seemingly unnoticed by the official statistics.)

But only does the whole article consider a very low number as rich, it claims that the rich as getting richer over time. It compares rich families as numbering 15,049 (0.2 percent of all families) in 2003, with over 19,403,602 annual income upwards, to 19,736 (0.1 percent) in 2006, with over 19,446,295 annual income upwards. I wonder, though, if the data base considered consistently distinguish classes over time of one, with of one percent—only 50 "rich" people deals—out of the large 9,000 sample of 30,000.

I suppose that the aim of the research is to talk to the rich in the culture because NSCB council when it officially reported that the Philippine poverty incidence rate rose from 26.4 percent in 2003 to 26.9 percent in 2006, despite the continuing growth in Gross National Product. It is also because we seem to be that the rich are defined by the richest were diminished over the same period, so by gap between rich and poor didn't worsen, and that but the economic justice aren't to find alike all...

I wonder if the research on the rich by Virola and company will remain in the academic realm, or if it implies that narrowing the rich-poor gap will become an official policy objective and start appearing in the government's economic reports. If not narrowing the rich-poor gap will now be officially accepted, this poverty will it likewise be more acceptable since even those poor, was poor, too?

* * *

Letter tests definition of rich and to check economic class

I. A previous Social Climate column ("What is the word 'middle-class' means," Jan. 23, 2011) was about the following question addressed to household heads in a Social Weather Survey in July 2009:

"Here let us talk about the word 'rich' [mayaman]. For example, to be rich in your town, how much in monthly income must a family earn? [If not stated] For example, how much in monthly income must a family earn, if they had it, they would be called a rich family?"

Of the wide range of answers elicited, the median answer, or the monthly income budget that satisfied 50 percent of respondents or answers, was "only" P20,000. By contrast, the upper 10th decile, or 10 percent of respondents, the median threshold of rising minimum was P40,000. Among data. So, the median was P20,000, not among data. So it was P40,000. The NSO survey found that most Filipino get a lower income than the respondents seem to lose more than upper borderline for making.

2. The second survey of the International Social Survey Program, in which SWS belongs, of ways include a question on self-reported economic status. The latest SWS results, for Oct. 1-4, 2009 (total sample size 1,200), 3.3 percent (or a margin) are 4.1 percent upper class, 6.2 percent upper middle class, 37.1 percent middle class, 18.6 percent lower-middle class, and 13.8 percent lower class. 0.2 percent didn't answer.

Thus, in one of the Dr. Virola and company have constructed an extreme definition of the word "rich," rather than the borderline of it.

* * *

Contact SWS: www.sws.org.ph or walter.mongaya@sws.org.ph

On the hustings

PEOPLE MY AGE ARE HOPE MORE DEEPLY INVESTED IN things that affect our country than ever before. You can see this in TV debating the hottest issues of the day or you can read their articles in newspapers urging others to think about the future of our nation.

I used to dream that I could be one of those dynamic, strong individuals who believes in the ability of our generation to change the world.

Then, during the last elections, I had the opportunity to do just that.

When the election campaign started, I was fresh out of college, looking for opportunities to find a job that would jumpstart my career. I went through a lot of tests and interviews in different companies trying to find out which among them I liked best. After a year's worth of job hunting, I once got a job offer, but I had this feeling deep inside me that I was going to be doing something more, something substantial which would make the experience worthwhile.

Finally, I knew what I wanted to do. I wanted to help my dad in his campaign to represent the lone district of Camiguin in Congress. So, I packed my bags, all set to live in the province for two months, and gain immeasurable experience.

At first, I found it difficult to work with the people there. See, they were all very friendly, but there was the language barrier that I had to handle. I could understand Bisol, since our family makes it a point to speak part of the summer vacation there every year, but I could not speak it fluently, and most of the people I was working with expected me to speak the language.

I knew it was a challenge that I had to overcome. So I asked the people helping my dad to speak to me in Bisol so that I could practice the use of the language. Before I knew it, I was already able to communicate in Bisol. Even if it was only on a basic level, I considered it as an accomplishment because I learned it on my own.

It did not take very long before I learned to love the language and appreciate the beauty of the province. Ever since I can remember, my parents have been bringing me to the province because they want us to be close to my roots. However, it was only last summer that I began to understand their passion for their beloved hometown. During my two-month stay, I came to regard Camiguin not as my second home and I loved every chance I had to explore its beauty.

Campaigning from house to house was one of the most trying yet fun experiences I ever had in my life. Every day my dad and I would go our separate ways so that we could cover all the towns of Camiguin. As the daughter of the candidate, I knocked on different doors, whether of the rich or of the poor, shook hands with everyone and tried to convince them to vote my dad in power for the job.

I loved to see their reactions whenever I introduced myself. Most were surprised that the daughter of the congressional candidate was there in their homes.

For my dad, it was a matter of image. In his mind, projecting our family as one where its members help one another would be a big plus for him. And it worked.

My dad had been a public servant for independent, meaning he could not count on the support of candidates for other positions. Family and friends were his main source of support and motivation.

I tried to do my part. I learned to speak in front of large audiences because sometimes I had to serve as his proxy whenever there was a conflict in his schedule. At first I was apprehensive, especially when I had to speak in front of people I knew about seventeen. Eventually I grew accustomed to speaking when the occasion called for it.

For me every day was an adventure waiting to be discovered. I met a lot of interesting people, went to different places, fostered great friendships, and—I hope—made a mark in the lives of some people I met.

Despite the grueling schedule that I had to keep, it didn't feel like work at all. Yes, there were days when I would get home close to midnight, only to wake up early the following morning for another campaign swing. Some people tried to discourage us and belittled my dad's chances of winning. But we persevered.

All of our hard work paid off. My dad was the first independent candidate in the province to win a seat in Congress.

I am proud of what I did during the elections. I may not be working in a big corporation now, but I think I took the first step to living what I want to be: a dynamic and strong individual who has started to help to change the world.

Jazmaine Sarmiento, 21, graduated last February from De La Salle University-Manila with a bachelor's degree in applied economics and business management.

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A reform agenda for teachers

Part 2: Teacher welfare

COMMENTARY

Jesus Miguel Luz

TEACHERS ARE PROFESSIONALS AND DESERVE to be treated as such. Better salaries and benefits, including recognition and rewards, will help teachers with their self-esteem and provide the respect and comfort for them to strive to prepare our students for schoolchildren.

From 2002 till 2009, during the tenure of three administrations, public school teachers received meager support. During that period, government workers (except for the military and police) were not given salary adjustments. The starting pay of a Teacher I (T1) was stuck at less than P10,000 a month—much lower than other a new economy grade of P17,000 a month in the private sector.

In 2009, a year before a national election, with poor poor ratings that were seen to handicap its presidential candidate, the Arroyo administration finally instituted Salary Standardization 32 raising the starting pay of a T1 position to P14,000 a month in the first year with four more adjustments over the next two years, the T1 new would go over P17,000 a month in year 3.

The new Aquino administration has to take matter further seriously if we are to aspire a better system of quality education.

At only 2% of GDP, the DepEd continued the lowest share of budget and Management and the Social Development Budget Coordinating Committee (DBCC) for smaller but regular salary increases for teachers in order to better manage the overall budget of the national government. Unfortunately, the latter, on salary standardization alone, does not allow for a segment of the government workforce to be specified for salary increases as a distinct entity. Hence, salary increases are standardized by law and must apply to all or to none at all.

There is a way, however, to apply salary increases specifically for teachers. This can be done using "unreleased items" which allow salary adjustments for government workers every third year. While this is a small amount (only around P200 per month), since a third increase is applied to the base salary it becomes the salary base from then on. This is an administrative process that should be can be run every year.

If budgeted properly in 2011 through 2015, the DepEd and Bur. only to have P840 billion (56 out of the departmental budget for "lack of funds"), then every year at least one-third of the budding basic will receive salary adjustments. This is a small but important benefit that should be targeted. If managed well, it will provide maximum impact for the minimum budget increase per part of the DepEd budget rather than the huge spikes that 30 DB-type laws inflict on national spending which can be unmanageable from a budget deficit point of view.

Teachers health packages and services can go a long way for teachers' productivity. An important part of this package but whose benefits are very small compared to the annual needs of teachers and all government workers). The key is to provide primary health care before sickness gets sick. Thus, an annual check-up should be provided all teachers so that they can be more aware of their state of health and their current medical needs.

The relationship teachers have with their parents must. Government has to take measures because it is the year of teacher welfare complaints. Teachers, as a whole, contribute the largest share to the welfare of GSS. Despite this, however, teachers have been badly treated (if not mistreated) by the Pension Gratuity government pension fund.

In a given year, teachers contribute 9 percent of their salary to their share to GSS for their pension. In addition, the national government pays in an amount equivalent to 12 percent of a teacher's salary as the government share. How much is this 40 valued at? For every P1.00 billion in teacher salaries budgeted, the teachers and the DepEd must fill billion (or 21 percent) to GSS as premiums. Likewise, teachers are the main object of all anti-terrorist today. Here one-third of GSS premiums (not to have would) are contributed by teachers.

Teachers are also the largest borrowers from GSS for salary and housing loans, making them the largest stakeholder of the system. Yet, the treatment they received from Gracia and the people was poor, if not abusive. In the private sector, these people would have been fired for misbehaving, if not repressing, moreover.

To correct the anomaly, the new Aquino administration should finally look into the long-standing issue of GSS management that would be more customer-oriented. This would be, without doubt, the single most important signal to teachers in the first 100 days of the new administration that they matter and are critical to the success of education reform in the country.

There are other welfare issues that the above are perhaps the most critical. The new DepEd team would be wise to focus a good part of its reform effort on teachers' welfare.

Jesus Miguel Luz is executive director for Development Management at the Asian Institute of Management. Email: jesusmiguel.luz@gmail.com

'Business Fighting Corruption'

BUSINESS MATTERS

Ramon R. del Rosario Jr.

PEOPLE IT PAY "MAKING BIRDS SORRY" HAVE recounted how with most of us, I think the statement of President Herbert Hoover is the best social address that "[t]o war is define his administration was his decision that there can be no reconciliation without justice. They are the context for his administration's context theme: bring making corrupt, making stealing. To those whose action was more than just corrupted or stealing, and now more formal instead of looking back, the President's response was: By all means, let us all move forward, hand in hand, each doing his part, but let us do so while bringing to justice those who have wronged our country and our countrymen. For to fail to do so, he said, ensures that these transgressions will be repeated.

The President then moved swiftly to give teeth to this thrust, first by his support move to name Justice Leila de Lima as justice secretary. De Lima's impressively acclaimed appointment brings hope that the Department of Justice will once again be a reliable instrument in the preservation of order and the pursuit of justice.

The second move was the announcement of the formation of a Truth Commission to be headed by former Chief Justice Hilario Davide. The intent is to look into the different and the formation of the Truth Commission, I hope its scope and objectives will be clearly defined and well focused so that it can substantially complete its work within the term of President Aquino. I for one think its focus must be corruption and only corruption. The national front during the Aquino administration. I believe there is nothing that will result in failure more than a poorly defined or overly broad mandate where the scope is so vast and ill-defined that its work will drag on for decades like the 99 EDSA. I hope we find investors the acceptability of the commission's output, the commissioners appointed will be persons of impeccable competence and probity.

As the government moves forward in its anti-corruption drive, it is also appropriate that we, here in the private sector, ordinarily consider what we should do to participate meaningfully in this effort. After all, corruption is by no means limited to the government sector, and we have considerable cleaning up to do ourselves.

It was very timely therefore that last June 24, the Asian Institute of Management's Center for Corporate Governance convened a round-table discussion on a proposed project aimed at "Business Integrity and Accountability in Business." The proposed project would have five objectives:

- To strengthen the anti-corruption campaign of the business and non-economic sectors by exposing Philippine businesses and to generate their support for anti-corruption efforts, and
- To strengthen the ability of Philippine enterprises, including small and medium-sized companies, to prevent, corrupt and offer unethical behavior to identify their competitors.

Both Transparency International co-founder Michael Hershman leading the discussion on collective action as the fight against corruption, the major business organizations were well represented by their executive or past heads. While the group expressed support for the project, there are some issues would by no means be easy, we also readily agreed that the cause of the Aquino administration provides us an outstanding opportunity to finally do something about this pervasive problem that is diverting scarce national resources from productive investments and social projects, and causing our enterprises to be uncompetitive against the rest of the world.

We agreed that the President and our main senior government officials must lead the way, first by appointing persons of unquestioned competence and integrity to the top positions in the government, and then by aggressively prosecuting and punishing prominent people like those involved in the ZTE deal and the fertilizer cases. For our part, we agreed to support MNC's multi-faceted approach to combating corruption in the Philippines, from the smallest to the largest. The private sector will be a series of anti-corruption workshops in areas across the country, specifically for small and medium-sized businesses which collectively constitute 99 percent of registered businesses and employ roughly 70 percent of the workforce in the Philippines. Our goal is to make demand to be more likely to be subscribed to corruption risks.

In the first step, we hope to secure formal support from the business community by obtaining signed pledges from prominent businesses to abide by ethical business practices and to support a national campaign against corruption. Initially, the signatories will be the CEOs themselves. It is hoped that the effort will help raise awareness of this anti-corruption initiative and willfully build momentum for the project. The first 30 signatories will be designated as charter members of the campaign, which AIM proposes to establish as a standing Corporate Governance Forum.

We also agreed to publicly support these initial pledges at a meeting of the business community which we hope will be graced by President Aquino. Then do we hope to formalize our commitment to be part of his campaign against corruption.

Ramon R. del Rosario Jr. is the chairman of the Makati Business Club. Please send your comments to makatibusiness@hotmail.com.ph.

THEY SAID

Bygone loyalty

"Disbelief and deep foolish rather whatever are on Mindanaoans, sorrow deep."
—Deputy Defense Secretary Rafael Alunan

Deadly message

"Thursday's Uphaus took enormous personal risks by agreeing to testify against Amputuan family members, all the government, knowing full well he was in danger, did nothing. This sends the most possible message to all witnesses thinking of coming forward."
—Maria Ressa of the Philippine Daily Mail, on the murder of a witness in the Maguindanao massacre

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Why not criminalize smoking?

LETTERS

IF SMOKING IS REALLY BAD AND CONsidered hazardous to a person's health, then why does the government allow cigarettes as well as other tobacco products to be manufactured and sold in the first place? On the other hand, other products found containing harmful ingredients are banned or removed from the market by government agencies concerned with consumer welfare and protection.

Like other consumer products, cigarettes and tobacco must first secure approval from the Food and Drugs Administration before they are offered for sale to the public. It is also mandatory to require cigarette and tobacco manufacturers to prominently place on each pack or box a government warning that smokers smoking unsafe and harmful. Otherwise, all products with harmful ingredients might as well be released for consumption in the market provided they carry the same government warning on their labels. This should put all of them on equal footing.

Yet, promotion, distribution and manufacture of illegal drugs are prohibited by law with corresponding heavy penalties because of their harmful effects on users and society as a whole.

But cigarette or tobacco smokers, retailers and manufacturers seem to enjoy undue advantage since there is no law prohibiting the manufacture and sale of cigarettes and other tobacco products.

As existing now, like the sale of beer, laws advocating of cigarettes, and local government ordinances regulate smoking in public places, malls, restaurants are hardly appreciated by law enforcement agents.

The usual argument in defense of the manufacture and sale of cigarettes and other tobacco products is our adverse effect on the livelihood of tobacco farmers, employees of manufacturers and government revenue. If that argument were to be submitted, the same should also be applied to illegal drugs and products found to contain harmful ingredients.

To prevent the spread of the dreadful smoking habit especially among minors and the bad publicity, other countries have imposed high taxes on cigarettes and similar tobacco products. At the same time, these countries benefit from the additional revenue source.

Current and past governments efforts to curb smoking can be described to be as ineffective. As a result, the number of smokers continues to grow. Moreover, statistics reveal that deaths caused by smoking related ailments are alarmingly increasing.

To recover, governments must resort to drastic measures instead of pursuing the ineffective (literally persuasive approach and more taxes.

Like illegal drugs, criminalizing the manufacture, distribution or possession of cigarettes and other tobacco products through legislation is an option worth considering if government truly expects to see a sharp decline in the number of smokers.

—MELVINE ARAGON JR.
aquallius_2333@yahoo.com

P-Noy racing against time in fight vs graft

THE ELIMINATION OVER PRESIDENT BENIGNO Aquino's victory is fast evaporating due to lack of action.

It's becoming clear that the Commission on Elections' mad disinterest to raise election cheating is effective amidst tougher Comelec with the election results data had bloated winning the presidency, and likewise ignorant of the many ways the Comelec deceived them, people have chosen to trap quiet even though there's a lot of grumbling at the local level. It will take more evidence and arguments before anyone can push apathetic Filipinos to the streets to protest over this cheating. That's reality No. 1.

A second reality is that in Macapagal-Arroyo's true grand Ilocos... midnight appointments and propaganda—to sabotage the transition and bury the crooks with him. The revamping of her so-called administration extensively plants over the administration corruption seeds the purpose installed. For one, all her infrastructure construction projects had 30 percent corruption rates embedded at all times, and the bills-ITE and blindfold projects were given more discretion in their planning processes.

P-Noy's administration, which was swept in power on a pledge to eradicate corruption, manages to get at the truth of how much was plundered by GMA & Co. If nothing happens after 100 days, then the stricter cheating and corruption charges will start to roll up under the surface of calm, and might begin to annoy the newly-installed regime.

A third reality may be a bigger problem. For P-Noy, GMA's machinations ingrained in government and most of Philippine society during her nine years of unbridled reign is. That's why anyone who is honest and well-meaning will find it hard to say to the ungrateful the government bureaucracy.

The fourth reality is the one that could do P-Noy passing amounts of needed action for change keeps corrupt officials in the saddle and alienates the people and the P-Noy administration. That's the worst warning of the recent killing of "Ismo" in Mindanao, the head of the troops regime which was covering up the Maguindanao massacre. Can P-Noy move in time?

—JOE SOLA.
jsolaz@gmail.com

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100-day rally causing bottleneck at Mendiola

TRAFFIC IN THE VICINITY OF MENDIOLA BRIDGE started from last to worse because of the bottlenecks caused by the closing of both lanes of Mendiola Bridge. This, due to a rally which the rallyers said would last through President Benigno Aquino's first 100 days in office. Let me emphasize—the rallyers have repeatedly announced their will stay in Mendiola for 100 days! As proud of this, they have set up large tents and camped out in Mendiola's streets since last June 30, the day P-Noy was sworn in as President.

We have gotten used to the frequent rallies held in the barricaded Mendiola Street. But what makes this rally worse is that the rallyers don't start at all. Rock after day and night until their loud speakers is full blast, causing nonsense of the day or times broadcasting "Imagine Rock." Will government allow Mendiola Bridge to be closed to traffic every day until the rallyers' 100 days is over?

We, we understand that Mendiola has been a symbol of democracy and freedom of speech, among other things. However, is it possible for government and the rallyers to find another venue to conduct their dialogue, or if not, allow two lanes of the Mendiola Bridge to be held in Mendiola? This, so as not to inconvenience the general public, most especially the thousands or, maybe, even millions of motorists who ply this area/spot more.

There are numerous schools and universities in the Welt area. So, ideally, the community of students, parents, teachers, workers, etc. in this area should be protected from criminal elements and instead of heavy traffic as well as of schools, quiet and peaceful vicinity.

We understand their reality and we are forced to join hear with the G-Arch study's survey results. But now with P-Noy's chance to make Pilipinas true "heroism," it is hoped that the government will take steps to solve the horrendous traffic situations caused by the ongoing rally.

May we also ask the help of Manila Weil Cole, Malacañang liker to its proximity to the area, the police, those who oppose rally permits and those tasked to solve Mendiola traffic problems. Mga buang, help please!

—VINCE DIZON.
vince.dizon@ymail.com

High electricity costs mean fewer jobs in RP

THE RECENT NEWS THAT MERALCO HAS decided to increase its electricity rates once more should not be taken lightly by the Aquino administration if it is serious in its promise to reverse the growing poverty in our country.

The Philippines has one of the highest electricity costs in the whole of Asia, we are second to Japan which is a rich, World country and owns the world's second largest economy. The effect of this is lower than just the ordinary Filipino paying more for his/her consumption of electricity at home; we should also look at its direct effects on the economy.

When local and foreign manufacturing companies in our country have either downsized, transferred their operations to China, Vietnam and Indonesia, or closed down entirely due to the high cost of electricity in our country. This has led to the loss of jobs for thousands of Filipinos who are now forced to leave their families in hopes of finding better opportunities abroad.

No job means no income for a family which means no food on the table and no education for their children. The Department of Energy now led by Secretary Rene Almendras needs to address this situation soon if we are to compete with the growing economies of our other Asian neighbors and maintain/raise the quality of life of every Filipino.

—RAFFY S. GO.
lead reporter, Raya/Valor Newsdesk,
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APACE-ING PACE: Derby Ace gunner Jaron Tay-d dries off JR Reyes of Rain or Shine. Tay set aside matchup woes to fire 21 points. AUGE ALCALA

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendrez
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

SPORTS

Fiery Yap, Simon lift Derby Ace past RoS

By Marang R. Castillo

JUMBO SIP CAME UP WITH ANOTHER clutch game and helped Derby Ace Hotel Rain or Shine, 108-101, last night for a 3-0 lead in their PBA Hotel Conference quarterfinal series at the Araneta Coliseum.

Peter June Simon came off the bench to hit 12 points in the fourth period as the league's most valuable sixth man made sure that the effort of Yap, the 2000 Most Valuable Player, didn't go to waste.

Yap, nudged by television reporters and crews before the start of the game to seek his retirement after his celebrated wife, Kris Aquino, left for the United States earlier issued in 25-of-36, 21 points in the first three periods.

And when the Elasto Painters made a late gasp round in the stretch, Simon was there to foil the Llamados out, hitting the team's final

end on p. 2

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR NO. 2010-06-0007

DIRECTING THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE TRADING OF ANCILLARY SERVICES IN THE PHILIPPINE WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY SPOT MARKET ("WESM")

WHEREAS, Section 37 of EPIRA Republic Act No. 9136, otherwise known as the "Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001" or "EPIRA", provides that the objectives of the restructuring of the electricity industry are to ensure the reliability, quality and security of supply of electric power; encourage private sector investments in the electricity sector and promote development of indigenous and renewable energy resources; and that appropriate principles and procedures are to be applied to promote a system of effective competition, encourage participation by smaller and innovative electric power industry participants, to provide sufficient capacity to meet demand including peaking criteria, reserve requirements;

WHEREAS, the DOE is also mandated under Section 30 of the EPIRA to establish the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market ("WESM") that would facilitate a transparent, competitive and reliable market for electricity;

WHEREAS, the DOE, jointly with the electric power industry participants, is tasked to formulate the detailed rules for the WESM and, pursuant to this, has issued the Department Circular No. 2006-06-0009 which adopted the Philippine Electricity Spot Market Rules ("WESM Rules") on 24 June 2006 through Department Circular No. DC-2002-06-003;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Electricity Market Corporation was constituted as the governance and market operator of the WESM;

WHEREAS, upon application by the DOE through Department Circular No. DC 2006-06-0008, the PEMC commenced commercial operations in Luzon on 26 June 2006;

WHEREAS, the WESM Rules in Section 10.2 provides that initially, only energy shall be traded upon commencement of the WESM;

WHEREAS, for ancillary services, the WESM Rules Section 10.3.2.3 provides that when applicable and reasonably feasible, the Market Operator shall operate a day-ahead and a spot market for ancillary services such market trading in the purchase of certain reserve categories and that the DOE shall declare the commencement of the spot market for ancillary services;

WHEREAS, the WESM Price Determination Methodology as approved by the Energy Regulatory Commission in its Decision dated 20 June 2006 in ERC Case No. 2006-027 RC embodies the principle of the co-optimization of energy and reserve offers in arriving at the commitment and dispatch schedules of the WESM;

WHEREAS, there is a need to establish the conditions and the roles and responsibilities of concerned agencies and entities in the preparations for the establishment and commencement of the spot market for ancillary services;

NOW, premises considered, the DOE hereby declares as follows:

SECTION 1. Scope and Application. This Circular shall apply to the agencies and entities named in this Circular and to all electric power industry participants.

SECTION 2. Spot Market Mechanism for Ancillary Services. The spot market for ancillary services shall be made an integral part of the WESM and shall be governed by the provisions contained in The WESM Rules and as may be proposed by the Market Operator in consultation with the System Operator and approved by the Philippine Electricity Market Corporation ("PEMC") Board and the WESM Technical Committee ("WESM TC") and the DOE, if required. For this purpose, the principles of the co-optimization of reserve and energy as provided for in the WESM Rules and the approved WESM Price Determination Methodology shall always be observed.

SECTION 3. Responsibilities. Pursuant to their respective mandates and functions under the EPIRA and its implementing Rules and Regulations, the WESM Rules and other relevant laws and issuances, the following agencies and entities are enjoined to undertake the necessary preparations for the establishment and commencement of the trading of ancillary in the WESM's balancing market for trading:

SECTION 3.1 Philippine Electricity Market Corporation ("PEMC"). Pursuant to its mandate as the autonomous group tasked to oversee the operation of the WESM, the PEMC shall complete its preparations for this establishment of the market operator, its preparatory activities shall include, but shall not be limited to:

a) Securing regulatory approval of its pricing and cost recovery methodology for reserves, provided that the methodology shall be consistent with the approved principles of the WESM Rules and the duly approved WESM Price Determination Methodology;

b) Ensuring that the WESM Market Management System and other market infrastructure, both hardware, software and necessary interfaces, are in place to support the operations of the trading of reserves in the WESM;

c) Ensuring readiness of all WESM members and trading participants as well as WESM service providers by conducting training, stakeholder consultations and other information dissemination activities to educate the WESM members and participants of the relevant methodologies and processes for the trading of reserve;

d) Review the existing WESM Rules, manuals and its internal business processes relevant to the trading of reserve and provision of ancillary services and, if warranted, propose and secure approval for changes to said rules, manuals, and business processes; and

e) Comply with all directives from the DOE pertaining to the establishment of the reserve market.

SECTION 3.2. National Grid Corporation of the Philippines. The NGCP shall remain liable for performance of its functions and obligations pursuant to its mandate on the provision of ancillary services are in compliance with the EPIRA and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, the WESM Rules, the Philippine Grid Code, the Open Access Transmission Service Rules ("OATS Rules"), and other relevant rules and regulatory issuances. Toward this end, it shall closely coordinate with PEMC and the DOE to ensure that all pre-requisites and conditions for the establishment of the reserve market are complied with and completed in a timely manner.

SECTION 3.3. National Electrification Administration. The NEA shall monitor the progress and compliance of its member-utilities (DUs) in ensuring their readiness for the commencement of the WESM reserve market. It shall submit regular reports to the DOE on the status of the member-utilities' compliance with the DUs in performing their responsibilities under this Circular.

SECTION 3.4. WESM Members and Electric Power Industry Participants. All WESM Members and Trading Participants, as well as non-registered WESM electric power industry participants are hereby directed to undertake their own preparations to ensure their readiness for the commencement of the WESM reserve market. All WESM participants intending to participate in the WESM reserve market as ancillary services providers shall obtain the necessary regulatory approvals to operate and shall ensure compliance with the registration as set forth in the WESM Rules and other requirements as may be set by the PEMC and NGCP for the registration and accreditation of ancillary services providers in the WESM.

SECTION 4. Conditions and Conditions for Declaration of Commencement of Spot Market for Ancillary Services. Pursuant to its mandate, the DOE shall determine the feasibility and reasonability of the commencement of the commercial operations of the reserve market in the WESM. Towards this end, it shall establish appropriate criteria for assessment of the readiness of the electric power industry participants, the capabilities of the NGCP and PEMC to operate the reserve market. The DOE shall declare commencement of the commercial operations of the reserve market upon its determination that the conditions and criteria it has set have been substantially complied with.

SECTION 5. Supervisory Requirements. For purposes of monitoring compliance with the directives under this Circular, the PEMC, NGCP, NEA, and other relevant agencies shall be required to submit reports on the progress and status of their preparations and compliance to the DOE, from time to time.

SECTION 6. Supervision by the DOE. The DOE shall continue to oversee the development of the WESM which includes, among other things, the trading of reserves. Toward this end, it shall undertake such other actions as may be necessary to implement the Rules and Regulations and the WESM Rules in connection with the establishment of the WESM.

SECTION 7. No amendment or repeal of existing laws. Nothing in this Circular shall be construed as to amend, supplant, or repeal any of the mandates or functions already existing or responsibilities already allocated and provided for under any existing law, rule or contract.

SECTION 8. Effectivity and Publication. This Circular shall be effective immediately upon its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation. The PEMC is also hereby directed to publish this Circular in the WESM Market Information Website.

This Circular shall remain in effect until otherwise revoked.

Taguig City, Metro Manila, Philippines June 23, 2010.

JANE C. ULBADOZA
Acting Secretary

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Department Circular No. 2010-07-0008

Adopting Further Amendments to the WESM Rules

WHEREAS, Rule 8.6.1.5 of the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM) Rules ("WESM Rules") vests the authority in the Department of Energy ("DOE") to promulgate the rules for any WESM rules changes upon the endorsement by the PEM Board;

WHEREAS, on 7 April 2010 the Rules Change Committee (RCC) has approved a resolution endorsing for approval before the PEM Board proposed changes to the WESM Rules relating to the Designation of a Compliance Officer for WESM Members, Market Operator and System Operator;

WHEREAS, after discussion, the PEM Board has resolved on 24 June 2010 to approve the endorsement to the Department of Energy (DOE) the aforestated changes to the WESM Rules;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to its authority under the WESM Rules, the DOE hereby issues, adopts, and promulgates the following amendments to the WESM Rules:

A. Amendments to the WESM Rules:

Clause 7.2.6 is added to read as:

7.2.6 Designation of a Compliance Officer for WESM Member, Market Operator and System Operator.

7.2.6.1 Each WESM Member, the Market Operator, the System Operator, Metering Service Provider and any other WESM Service Providers shall designate a Compliance Officer to their respective organizations.

7.2.6.2 The Compliance Officer shall:

(a) Monitor and undertake necessary activities to ensure the full compliance of their respective organizations to the EPIRA, the EPIRA Implementing Rules and Regulations, WESM Rules and the WESM Market Manuals, and develop internal compliance procedures and guidelines for this purpose;

(b) Train, line up, hire if the Compliance Officer deems it necessary or appropriate, competent employees or consultants to the WESM Rules and/or WESM Market Manuals to enhance or develop the WESM enforcement and compliance with the WESM Rules and/or WESM Market Manuals and other contractual and technical practices;

(c) Be responsible in facilitating and coordinating with the WESM Enforcement Compliance Office (WECO) of matters relating to the enforcement and compliance of their respective organization, including the provision of the necessary information and data, as may be requested by the rules of the WESM Governance Committees and by the WECO;

(d) Submit a report to the WECO concerning their respective organization's compliance with WESM Rules and WESM Market Manuals on an annual basis or as may be determined by the WECO or any of the WESM Governance Committees.

B. Separability Clause

If for any reason any section or provision of this Department Circular is declared unconstitutional or invalid, such parts not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

C. Effectivity

This Department Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Signed this 30th day of June 2010 at the DOE Energy Center Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila.

JANE C. ULBADOZA
Acting Secretary

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR NO. 2010-07-0004

ENJOINING ALL ELECTRIC INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS IN THE VISAYAS GRID TO REGISTER AND PARTICIPATE IN THE VISAYAS WESM TRIAL OPERATION PROGRAM (TOP)

WHEREAS, the Department of Energy (the "DOE") is mandated under Section 30 of Republic Act No. 9136 otherwise known as the "Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001" or "EPIRA" to establish the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM) that would facilitate a transparent, competitive and reliable market for electricity, and, jointly with the electric power industry participants, to formulate the implementation group market operator and formulate the detailed rules for the WESM;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Electricity Market Corporation (the "PEMC"), a non-stock, non-profit association with membership composed of an equitable representation of electricity industry participants and currently chaired by the Secretary of Energy, is the autonomous group market operator (the "MARKET") as well as governing arm of the WESM. PEMC, as the MARKET, is responsible for the registration of participants and members of the WESM, pursuant to the requirements of Section 30 of the EPIRA and in accordance with the WESM Rules;

WHEREAS, the DOE declared the launch of the commercial operations of the WESM for energy in the Luzon Grid on June 23, 2006 through Department Circular 2006-06-0008. Declaring the commencing of the Mindanao Electricity Spot Market (MEMS) on the Luzon Grid and the Terms and Conditions for the Commencement of the Full Commercial Operations of the MEMS";

WHEREAS, PEMC launched the Trial Operations Program for Visayas as early as October 2005. Likewise, PEMC has conducted actual implementation of the dispatch schedule in the Market Management System (the "MMS") through the Live Dispatch Operation from January 14 to 28 2010 to enable Visayas Electricity Corporation (VECO) and Cebu City Electric Corporation (CEBECO) testing of all interfaces to the MMS with Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition (SCADA) and Energy Management System (EMS) including WESM procedures and protocols;

WHEREAS, the DOE, jointly with the PEMC Market Operator, conducted a series of Visayas WESM Stakeholders' workshop meetings with Visayas-based generators, distribution utilities and electric cooperatives, and with NGCP (System Operator) including Bernardo Group on Cebu City last March 11 to 12 and June 18, 2010 where they determined Visayas stakeholders' issues and concerns on their compliance with Visayas WESM readiness program;

WHEREAS, during the last June 16, 2010 stakeholders' meeting, the DOE has set from 30 June to the official starting date of Visayas PEDM Stakeholders' registration with PEMC Market Operator;

NOW, THEREFORE, premises considered, the DOE hereby enjoins all electricity industry stakeholders in the Visayas grid to register and to participate in the WESM and to fully comply in the preparations of their respective facilities for the commercial launch of the Visayas WESM and further declares as follows:

SECTION 1. Scope and Application. This Circular shall apply to all Visayan grid electric power industry stakeholders such as the generation companies, distribution companies, bulk consumers, transmission service providers, and metering service providers.

SECTION 2. Registration of All Electric Industry Participants. All Visayas electric industry participants are required to register and to participate in the Trial Operation Program (TOP) for the Visayas WESM. Applications for registration are to be submitted in the PEMC at its offices either at (1) 6th Floor Robinsons Equitable Tower, ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, (2) PEMC Visayas Office, 6th Floor Gaisano Building, 37 Fuente Osmeña Circle, Cebu City, Philippines or any other offices may be established by PEMC or accompanied from the MEMS Information Website at https://wesm.emcor.ph.

SECTION 3. Responsibilities. Pursuant to their respective mandates and functions under the EPIRA and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, the WESM Rules and other relevant laws and issuances, PEMC, NGCP, NEA, and Transco are enjoined to extend their full support and cooperation to ensure the successful implementation of all steps of WESM establishment and to prepare the necessary conditions to successfully integrate the Visayan grid with Luzon WESM.

SECTION 4. Reportorial Requirements. For purposes of monitoring compliance with the directives under this Circular, the PEMC, NGCP, NEA, and other relevant agencies shall be required to regularly submit to the DOE reports on the progress and status of their preparations and readiness.

SECTION 5. Supervision by the DOE. The DOE shall oversee the registration and compliance of Visayas stakeholders, and shall undertake appropriate actions in accordance with the EPIRA, its Implementing Rules and Regulations, and the WESM Rules relative to the successful integration of the Visayas grid with Luzon WESM.

SECTION 6. No Amendment or Repeal of Existing Laws. Nothing in this Circular shall be construed as to amend, supplant, or repeal any of the mandates or institutions already existing or responsibilities already allocated and provided for under any existing law, rule or contract.

SECTION 7. Effectivity and Publication. This Circular shall be effective immediately upon its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation. The PEMC is hereby directed to publish this Circular in the Market Information website.

This Circular shall remain in effect until otherwise revoked.

Taguig, Metro Manila, 30 June 2010.

Jane C. Ulbadoza
Acting Secretary
Department of Energy

The Heat is on

Cavs owner hits LeBron decision to bolt Cleveland and join Miami

CLEVELAND—ANGERED AND BETRAYED BY LEBRON JAMES' DECISION to leave for Miami, Cavaliers owner Dan Gilbert accused the NBA's most valuable player of spitting during the playoffs.

MADE it

BOSH wrote

Gilbert, who penned a letter to Cavs fans on the team's website shortly after James announced his plans to sign with the Heat, told The Associated Press late Thursday night that it's "incomprehensible times" for James.

"He has gotten a free pass," Gilbert said in a phone interview with The AP. "People have covered up for (James) his way too long. Tonight everyone subscribe reality to."

Gilbert feels James quit on the Cavs during their second-round series against the Boston Celtics, who rallied from a 2-1 deficit to eliminate Cleveland.

"He quit," Gilbert said. "Not just in Game 5, but in Games 2, 4 and 6. Watch the tape. The Boston series was the most astounding in the history of sports for a superstar."

The Cavaliers were beaten by 32 points in Game 5. During the game, James appeared disinterested and unconcerned, often glaring at Cleveland's coaches as the Cavs tried to find to get back into the game in the second half. James also could notice watching postgame comments, saying he had "spoiled" people with his

CAVALIERS owner Dan Gilbert feels LeBron James turned his back on the Cleveland community and its fans, calling the star's decision to join Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh in Miami an act of betrayal. AP PHOTO

outings based on the team's size."

"It's not about him leaving," Gilbert added. "It's the disrespect. It's time for people to hold these athletes accountable for their actions."

In Miami, Heats said he was stunned by Gilbert's comments.

"I think I'm happy that I have the luxury that I have here in Miami," Wade told The Associated Press late Thursday night. "I'm happy Mike Arison to my owners. I couldn't believe it. I'm speechless. It's very unfortunate and I think it makes Cleveland that much better about his decision.

"My hands. Bosh wouldn't take some backhands," Wade added in his news release with AP.

No major changes for Spain in final

FOOTBALL, SOUTH AFRICA—Spain coach Vicente del Bosque won't be doing much tinkering with the European champion's starting lineup for Sunday's Alexander meeting in Istanbul World Cup final against the Netherlands.

"We've kept a certain block of players in these six games, so I don't think there will be many changes," Del Bosque said Thursday.

Del Bosque fielded the same starting 11 for three straight games before replacing striker Fernando Torres with Pedro Rodriguez for Wednesday's 1-0 win over Germany in which Carlos Puyol scored.

"We're very happy with Pedro's work. We wanted him to attack (defender Philipp) Lahm (when Torres defend," Del Bosque said.

Del Bosque said Spain will stick to the attacking style of football that has made it the favorite going into the match at Soccer City in Johannesburg, said that Torres is likely to start in the final.

TORRES

"If he's played the first five games it's because we believe he is in good physical shape," Del Bosque said.

Puyol was still enjoying what may be the most important goal of his career.

"They are moments you must experience, especially as a player who isn't used to scoring and especially as such an important game," the defender said.

Puyol is staying focused on today to keep the Netherlands from being the first team to score against Spain in the knockout stages.

"My work is to defend," Puyol said. "If we keep the goal at zero, we're champions." AP

Knights nail 1st win; Bombers score

By Marc Anthony Reyes

LETRAN FINALLY BROKE INTO THE WIN-ners's loss column as Jhon Ariel recorded his second straight win yesterday in the 89th NCAA men's basketball at the FilOil Flying V Arena in San Juan.

Rookie guard Franz Pumaren exploded for 26 points and four other Knights finished in double figures as Letran took control in the third quarter en route to an 87-69 win at Emperador Hills.

It was the first victory in three outings for the Knights, who passed a third straight loss on the slate.

Joe Bonoc, Marvin Hayes and Gilbert Bu-

Lemos, 31-84, while Jose Raul Jose Ayalbaro, 7-3-0-0, to tie for third place with similar 2-1 marks.

Game notes

Third Game

LETRAN (87)—Pumaren 26, Bonoc 16, Hayes 14, Ayalbaro 9, Ramos 6, Buenafe 5, Salem 2, Dimla 2, Bonifacio 2, Ayalbaro 2.

PERPETUAL (69)—Abad 17, Dumayas 15, Ellen 12, Ilano 10, Nolasco 4, Gonzalez 2, Mallillin 2, Rodriguez 2, Ramirez 2, Manzo 2.

Quarterscores: 16-16, 42-40, 69-69, 87-69.

Fourth Game

JOSE RIZAL (84)—Galanging 19, Baron 12, J. Lopez 11, Alcantara 7, Ibañez 6, Nuno 5, Balangit 5, M. Lopez 5, Ilao 2, Mallillin 2, Rodriguez 2.

MIKE (69)—Cuevas 20, Salinas 8, Lazo 8, Cuadro 5, Gutierrez 4, delRosario 2, Lagrosa 2, Tacmangas 2, Amado 2, Manuel, Salvador, Gabriel, Villafuerte.

Quarters: 24-19, 52-29, 72-50, 84-69.

Fiery Yap, Simon lift Derby Ace...

Previous Art

CAVENDISH scores

Cavendish rules 5th stage

MONTARGIS, FRANCE—BRITISH SPRINT star Mark Cavendish won Stage 5 to consolidate a Tour de France lead on Thursday, then broke down in tears as he had been both the pressure and pride that top-level sport can instill in professional athletes.

With the pack close at the heels of Cavendish, the overall standings didn't change on the hot and stormy flat 187.5-kilometer trek from Epernay to Champagne country to Montargis.

Fabian Cancellara remained the leader's yellow jersey Defending champion Alberto Contador of Spain is now 29th in the stage, and seven time tour winner Lance is running 30th.

Holding his three in his hands and breaking down during a television interview, Cavendish admitted the "pressure was immense," and said he had "been through a helluva lot" while denying he had thrown his bike down a day earlier.

Among the top contenders behind Cavendish, Cadel Evans of Australia holds third place, 39 seconds back, and last year's runner up Andy Schleck of Luxembourg is sixth, 1:08 back. Contador is ninth, 1:40 back, and United States rider Armstrong is 2:30 back in 18th. AP

Lang leads US Open; Wie fires 82

CARMONT, PENNSYLVANIA—Only a little rough day for the world's No. 10-ranked golfer, Michelle Wie shot an 11-over 82 to play herself out of contention after one round of the US Women's Open on Thursday.

She couldn't drive the ball in the fairways, finding too many of Oakmont Country Club's 208 bunkers. Once she finally reached the 14th-year-old course's infamously treacherous greens, her game got even worse.

"There was nothing I could do," said Wie.

Filipino Jennifer Rosales also struggled with the course, shooting a 78 to fall nine strokes behind the lead.

Wie's score nearly overshadowed Bernhard Lang, who bounced through the scorekeeping boards for a two-under-par 69 and tries a one-shot lead over South African Rolf Muntz.

Lang, who is making his first visit to the LPGA Tour, bogeyed her first hole Thursday but still finished just ahead of a group of four golfers including Muntz.

Muntz was alone in front for over half the round but the three pursued on her finishing to clump to minus-one.

South Korean Park Inbee is in second with Hanna and Barrs others one shot adrift of Lang.

Lang's round included rolling in a 40-foot putt on the 442-yard No. 15 to grab a two-shot lead. AP/AFP

Goydos logs just 4th 59 in PGA history

GOYDOS

SILVIS, ILLINOIS—PGA GOYDOS became only the fourth player in the PGA Tour history to shoot a 59 after he carded a magical opening round at the John Deere Classic on Thursday.

His 59 shots found the middle of the fairway. He appeared to have no problem with the greens. And, most importantly, his putts found the middle of the cup one after another.

"Today was a perfect bomb," said Goydos, a 46-year-old from California. "I don't know where it came from. If I knew that, I wouldn't be able to touch it."

Goydos, with only two victories in his 16 years on the tour, needed just 22 putts to dominate the par-71 TPC Deere Run course, which was softened by three days of intermittent rain. The wet weather also allowed his preferred but penalizing golf to fly, clean and place their ball on the fairway.

It was the first 59 on the tour since David Duval's memorable final round helped him win the 1999 Bob Hope Classic.

Al Geiberger was the first to shoot 59, in the second round of the 1977 Memphis Classic at Colonial Country Club. Chip Beck shot his 59 in the third round of the 1991 Las Vegas Invitational at Sunrise Golf Course.

Goydos is the third to shoot 59 on a par 71. The others came on par 72s.

David was here, too, playing in Thursday afternoon while Goydos and everyone else talked about his amazing round.

Goydos finished every hole on the back nine except for No. 15, where he birdied a 6-foot par putt to keep alive his hopes. He finished off with three birdies, the last one from 7 feet to join the four players who made it golf.

Goydos raised his putter to a roar from the crowd when his 30th shot fell into the cup and he high-fived his wife to the clubhouse.

2 RP As-Pac nines tangle with Indonesians today

By Cedelf P. Tejico

JAKARTA, INDONESIA—TWO TEAMS from Mandaluyong, both toughened by several international tournaments, get the Philippine campaign going today in the Asia Pacific Little League Softball and Baseball Championships at the Senayan ballpark here.

The Mandaluyong hotties clash with their Indonesian rivals with the Junior League baseball 12-1-0-0, and Senior League (14-16) teams seeking to continue their journey over the host teams.

Six other RP teams, including the Little League 11-12 baseball squad in Surabaya, won't see action until tomorrow.

The marshmallow tournament serves as a qualifier for the 2010 World Series in the United States next month.

As tournament outsiders, Mandaluyong, which only put up a Little League cluster four years ago, wound up third behind champion Saipan and Chinese Taipei in the Junior League.

Not with current players from last year's squad back, the Mandaluyan hotties are expected to do well this time.

Mandaluyan Junior League coach Joel Pasaoag said his squad is targeting a Top 4 finish.

"It's going to be tough," said Pasaoag, who is also the coach of the Manila Hooks in baseball Philippines.

"The players matured from last year's campaign. We don't want to put too much pressure on them."

The Mandaluyan Senior Leaguers are best pressed to duplicate the feat of the Intermediate and Little League Associations of Manila (Illam), which last ended the tournament the past two years.

Team manager Pepe Molina said he has an "experienced" squad ready to defend the title As-Pac baseball crown the Philippines holds.

The Senior's boast a deep and loaded pitching corps led by Carlos Mendoza and Justin Mallaty, also a power hitter who led Mandaluyan with nine home runs in the Philippine Series last May.

Six Hotshots, one of them players obtained from the Junior League squad, is set to depend to do well here, after last sweep showing in the Philippine Series.

2nd Viloria comeback fight tonight

By Marc Anthony Reyes

BRIAN VILORIA IS MAKING A COMEBACK yet again.

Whether the man called "Hawaiian Punch" still has what it takes to return to the spotlight will be known tonight when he fights Mexican Omar Soto in a 10-round non-title bout in the Toyota Sports Arena in Ontario City.

It will be Viloria's second attempt to resurrect his career since losing his lightweight World Boxing Federation light flyweight crown to Ghanaian Cedric Tsumor at the Cuneta Astrodome in January.

The 30-year-old Filipino-American checked in at 112.2 pounds in contrast to weight-in at the Ruby Hill Grooves of the Embarcadero Hotel. Soto topped the scales at 112.5 lb.

"We're going to see the best Brian Viloria," said the owner of a 26-3 win-loss record. "I'm not taking anything for granted. I'm going to thrive for victory."

Viloria also held the WBC light flyweight crown before claiming the IBF belt only last year in the Sarangani Coliseum.

Soto could be next to take things lightly.

"I know he's a very hot boxer," said the 30-year-old Mexican. "But I also have that speed, so it's going to be a hot and intelligent fight."

Viloria (30-3, 13 KOs) fought for a world title twice, but lost to Muhammad Ibrahim in 2008 and Omar Andres Narvaez last year.

Soto is a "Durobolero." The fight is the fourth installment of the Boxing 4U Trio this year promoted by Solar TV and Solar Sports.

PERPETUAL HAIR-Mark Jimenez gives an in-pain as Lorenzo Kevin Alex tries to force the ball to be scored by UNCAA game as the NCAA Opening V. Arena in San Juan. Story on A14. AGAM MACARAIG

UAAP caging fires off today

Noynoy invited to opening rites

By Jasmine W. Payo

PRESIDENT AQUINO HAS BEEN INVITED as special guest in today's opening of the UAAP men's basketball competition at the Araneta Coliseum.

The invitation to inspire it in line with the theme of the country's top varsity league declaring the UAAP as a place "Where Heroes are Made."

A young crew from La Salle likely to gauge its strength against a University of the Philippines squad looking primed for a breakthrough season in the kickoff game at 2 p.m.

Last year's runner-up University of the East and University of Santo Tomas fought it out in a battle of source trying to rebuild following the graduation of key players.

Armed, President Aquino's stint marks, opens its quest for a third straight crown against promising pick Far Eastern University at 4 p.m. tomorrow, also at the Big Dome.

A glitzy opening ceremony which also flies off La Salle's Guinevere Goldenchain countdown, starting 1 p.m.

Explaining this year's theme during the season launch recently, league president Fr. Bernie Oca of Dark Lady described the decision-makers of the league as "symbols and icons of heroism."

"Every one of us are heroes," Oca said. "Everyone in the society can count them to the development of our country. We need all the heroes we can get."

Now La Salle coach Bindo Pumaren expect the rebuilding Green archers to compete well.

"The veterans have been playing well the past few months. All I hope they can sustain it throughout the season," said Pumaren, whose core includes first forward Joshua Webb, guard Simon Atkins and forward/center Ferdinand.

Some of La Salle's 10-man lineup are rookies. But counting fresh brawl high school.

"It's a wide open race for the six other teams," said UP coach Laurence Chongson, who considered the first two slots in the Final Four to be Ateneo and the Falconers.

"It's a more mature team," said Garcia of the Maroons. "It's an older team. Hopefully, can experience the past years has made us a more formidable team."

Expected guard Jhed Lee will lead the Warriors against the Tamaraws, who will surely miss last year's MVP Jayjay Alejos.

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
1 p.m.—opening
2 p.m.—La Salle vs. UP
4 p.m.—UST vs. EU

Mamiit salvages 1-1 tie vs Taiwanese

PLAYING CAPTAIN CECIL MAMIIT (#8) rolled over his counterpart for last night, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 (ordeal), as the Cebuana Challenger Philippine Davis Cup team salvaged a 1-1 tie with Chinese Taipei at the end of their daylong Davis Cup playoff in Pasig City.

Mamiit, the 34-year-old demagogue for the RP Cagayan, pulled off the win over the 27-year-old Chen Ti in the second match of the opening singles at the backcourts of the Sang Mung Tennis Center.

The Taiwanese drew first blood when 19-year-old Yang Tsung-hua teamed back Trent Conrad Hoey in the first singles, 6-2, 7-6 (7-5), 7-6 (7-3).

Mamiit took a long time to find his rhythm against Chen, who is ranked 423rd in world singles. But it was an old Mamiit show after he rolled the match in the second set.

"Grid enthusiast), comes and made his opponent reach for every point in the third set," said Philippine Lawn Tennis Association vice-president Randy Villanueva.

Although debuting Filipino Ruben Gonzales and veteran Johnny Arcilla have been scratched to play in today's doubles, Mamiit may opt to team up with Hoey.

The Philippines won all its four previous meetings with Chinese Taipei, but the last two encounters in 1999 and 1998 were 5-2 finishes.

The Philippine event last this year's tie-slightly favored after Taiwanese No. 1 Lu Yen-hsun, who rounded the Wimbledon quarterfinals by upsetting Arch Perlfish, decided not to play.

The 24-year-old Hoey went down to Yang in two hours and 30 minutes. He blew a 4-1 lead in the second set and wasted a 5-2 advantage in the ensuing tiebreak. Mike Anthony Reyes

PAMIIT: Again in the rescue after May last.

Ascof nips Pacman five in overtime

By Jasmine W. Payo

GAMES TODAY
(Ynares Sports Arena)
12 noon—Cebu vs. Pampanga
2 p.m.—Pasig vs. Antipolo

SOR LABAGALA came through in the clutch as Ascof Legault downed MP Hotels Group in overtime, 84-80, to claim the last finals berth in the fifth leg of the Tournament of the Philippines centerfest at the Ynares Sports Complex in Antipolo.

Labagala drained an 10-07 deadlier to free the reigning Centurion's last possession with a steal off Louie Miraflores.

"He's been steady for us," Ascof coach Cedric Tan said of the former University of the East guard who also helped Ascof bags semifinal at 7-0 all with a key assist to Bino Gonzalvo with five seconds left.

Gonzalvo is expected with 21 points for the Cough Busters, who ended a several triumph in three outings.

Raymund Aquino collected 15 points, eight rebounds and five assists, while Labagala also chipped in with 15 points.

Celine Energy Drink spoiled the sweep bid of early finalist Tagaig with an 80-74 decision in the first game.

Benjie Bacas drilled 21 of his 29 points in the final quarter to lift the lessmen in the victory that also snapped their six-game losing skid since the starting in Laguna.

Tagaig, now 1-1, which in the wrapped up the elimination at 2-1, battle for the crown at 2 p.m. today at the same venue.

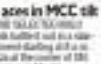
The scores
CELINE 80—Bacas 29, Lingat 17, Ruelo 12, Ribeiro 11, Lingatong 9, Tacorda 2, Gallardo 2, Acuña 0, Ardia 0
MP HOTELS 74—De Leon 18, Sandoval 13, Alvarez 11, Alas 10, Miraflores 9, Ramos 6, Lingad 5, Tapiador 3, Marquez 4, Gallo 2, Estrada 2, Fernandez 2
Quarters: 12-16, 32-35, 60-61, 80-74
ASCOF 84—Labagala 21, Aquino 15, Labagala 15, De La Salle 12, Gonzalvo 7, Alcuin 6, Mangahas 4, Ramil 3
MP HOTELS 80—Gonzalvo 25, Aquino 15, Labagala 15, De La Salle 12, Gonzalvo 7, Alcuin 6, Mangahas 4, Ramil 3
Quarters: 20-20, 38-40, 60-60, 84-80 (OT)

SPORTSWATCH

Checkmate aces in MCC tilt

LIVE-WIRE LEO ANE SILLO SLAMMED Chessboard-battled Ateneo student to take an historic tournament-darling all 8 at Bobby Fischer Physical Education of Ateneo and Ed Asmundo Monte.

The two-time-year engagement by the Metropolitan Chess Club will have a women-group component of Alfa Valentin Montenegro Jr. and Chito Carmen and Rifa Khaylene Mage, Jerome Palero and Ric Pontiggalan.



By TOP CHOICE
At Santa Ana Park

PITCH FOR BASEBALL—American serviceman Harry Thomas Jr., a former baseball player during his younger days, makes the ceremonial pitch as fast week end's "All-American Friendship Day Baseball Invitational at the Alabang Country Club. In the exhibition game, the Hard-ardenton beat Team 7-2.

RP karters open bid in Macau Asian tilt

TOP FILIPINO KARTERS set out for strong performances to clear the second round of the 2010 Asian Karting Open Championships at the Kartodromo in Coloane Circuit in Macau.

Archrivals Francis Boya and Jon Rosales will lead the country's bid in the races organized by the Macau Automobile Oriental Association Motor Chairs.

Boyas ruled his class in the kickoff leg staged last month in Carmona, Cavite, while Rosales emerged the top Filipino finisher in the premier Formula 125 Open homers class.

Joining the RP campaign are Christian Godoh of Art Karting, John Tristan Dolino and Christina Villanueva of Maranello Kart, Miguel Cruz Alfaro de Racing.

Singapore, spearheaded by first-round winner Hafiz and Bradley, is expected to be the Philippines' biggest threat for the second race.

The 10-year-old Bradley has competed in the Super 88 karting's five rounds 1 and both the Drivers Championship and the Rookies Cup of the 2010 Formula BMW Pacific Championship.

Dapudong's Mexican ring feat on NBN

THE WORLD BOXING COUNCIL FLY-weight Silver Championship fight between Filipino Eden "The Sting" Dapudong and Neyid No. 1 flyweight Jesus "The Destroyer" Antonio held in Tepic City, Mexico, last June 19 will be finally aired today from 9-11 p.m. to 12-13 p.m. on NBN-4.

MBA Ignacio boxing manager Joey Isidro yesterday said the airing of the WBC bout is a re-production of the network and the Boxabuser Boxing Club owned by 8-time World Combat champion Manny Pacio, who manages the hitting boy-from Mang town.

The 24-year-old Dapudong, the former NBO Asia Pacific Youth strawby and WBO Oriental junior flyweight champion, knocked out Antonio in the first round, a feat that thrashed Mexican boxing fans.

Pasig River run going for Guinness world record

THE PHILIPPINES IS PULLING OUT all stops to set a new world record for the biggest fun run in Metro all.

Aimed at generating awareness and funds to support the rehabilitation of the Pasig River, ABS-CBN Foundation's "Ang Liwasan" project is organized to celebrate the "Run for the Pasig River" run meant to target of 120,000 runners in the race scheduled on Oct. 10.

If successful, the race—organized by Ralph Bing Pura sa Ilog Pasig and the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission—could surpass the Guinness Book of World Record's only Berlin's Run 1988 Run to Brandenburg in San Francisco, California, where 110,000 runners met.

Ralph Bing, and the PRRC organized the Philippine International Marathon, A Run for the Pasig River last year with 25,000 participants.

Considering the logistical, technical and safety aspects of a big race, organizers have decided to limit the race to 21 kilometers, 10K, 5K and 3K distances.

"Last year, the 25,000 runners were supposed to be for a first time event," said Lopez. "We can break this record, and we want to break this record every year for the race can more reliably would be another record for Berlin."

More, Anthony Reyes

MUSCLE TAPE®
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OFFICIAL THERAPEUTIC TAPE OF THE 2010 PHILIPPINE TEAM

TEACHERS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY ARE HONORED FOR THEIR PASSION AND SERVICE WITH THE GABAY GURO PROGRAM.

The PLDT-SMART Foundation's flagship project Gabay Guro or 2G is a nationwide program that pays tribute to the teachers, the nation's unsung heroes, who have devotedly shaped our minds, talents and ultimately, our lives.

The 2G program aims to uplift the lives of the teachers across the country through livelihood projects and equip their professional development as educators through scholarship grants, English proficiency exercises and literacy training programs.

To honor the great efforts of the teachers, the program's mission is anchored on three pillars: 1) Broadbanding and Computerization of Schools 2) Scholarships and Trainings 3) Livelihood and Housing

By helping shape the future of the teachers, Gabay Guro hopes to spread the gift of learning to students across the country, thereby taking part in nation building.

Chayo Cabal
PLDT EVP/Corporate and PLDT - Smart Foundation Programs

The man behind 2G, PLDT Chairman Manny V. Pangilinan

SCHOLARSHIPS AND TRAININGS

BROADBANDING AND COMPUTERIZATION OF SCHOOLS

LIVELIHOOD AND HOUSING

The Teacher's Visa Card is given to teacher beneficiaries during trainings. The Gabay Guro Visa Card offers freebies, services, products and discounts from PLDT and SMART's most trusted partners. The card also entitles them to a discount on their PLDT HOME application.

Aplus METRO
Editor Alelardo S. Ulanday

This space is reserved for your preschooler.

Budget cuts in Makati

Vice mayor seeks reasons for slash

By Nina Calleja

MAKATI VICE MAYOR ROMULO Peña has questioned the realignment of the city budget that cut funds allocated to his office by 96 percent, and to the city council by 62 percent, saying the move would cripple work in these offices.

In the recent realignment, the budget of the city mayor in 2010 increased from P91 million to P300 million, while that of the vice mayor was slashed from P73 million to P1 million. City council funds, on the other hand, were slashed from P63 million to P24 million.

Some P139 million of the budget were transferred to the Office of the Mayor, according to a document dated June 28, 2010, and signed by then Makati Mayor and now Vice President Jejomar Binay.

In a letter to Treasurer Pedro asked Councilor Antonio, city budget officer, to clarify the realignment, citing provisions in the Local Government Code that "funds shall be available exclusively for the specific purpose for which they have been appro-

JUMP TO A10

Grandmother gives up life to save grandson

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A 65-YEAR-OLD WOMAN SAVED HER grandson from certain death when she pushed him out of the way of a moving passenger bus early yesterday morning in Manila.

Clemencia Lopez, of Cristobal Street in Sta. Cruz, died instantly, with her grandson's schoolbag still in her grasp, as a filler bus ran over her.

SPO2 Rueben Ismol of the Manila Police District Traffic Enforcement Unit said the unidentified bus driver fled after the accident, leaving behind 19-year-old bus conductor Willy Boy Cayle to explain the circumstances behind the accident to authorities.

School-bound

Ismol said the incident happened at around 5:30 a.m. at the corner of Quiapo and Ortigas streets in Sta. Cruz.

Lopez was crossing the street on her way to Juan Sumulong Elementary School with her 11-year-old grandson, Modesto Gerasmio, when a bus that had been unloading passengers started to move forward.

The bus driver apparently had not seen Lopez and her grandson in front of the vehicle, Ismol said.

Sensing that the bus was starting to pick up speed, Lopez pushed her grandson out of the way, but was hit by the bus.

MAGPAPATAWAD A10

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No more code exemption for buses

By Nito Calleja

THE METROPOLITAN MANILA DEVELOPMENT Authority (MMDA) is set to lift the exemption of public utility buses (PUBs) from the traffic coding scheme to further reduce the number of vehicles in major thoroughfares of the metropolis.

In a statement yesterday, MMDA Chairman Jejomar Binay said the exemption, granted to the Unified Vehicular Volume Reduction Program (UVVRP), also known as the number coding scheme, is a feasible idea given the completion of the Metro Rail Transit (MRT) and the Light Rail Transit (LRT) loop, Libres Manila's mass rail transport system.

"We have ordered that there are less, or rid fewer passengers patronizing buses. Too many empty buses on the roads only add to the congestion," the MMDA chief said.

There are approximately 4,000 PUBs plying Edsa and other major thoroughfares daily.

Binay says said the UVVRP can even help bus company operators reduce their expenses on fuel and vehicle maintenance by reducing the number of hours they travel and recovery day.

In 2004, then President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the suspension of the traffic scheme for passenger buses upon the strong lobbying of bus operators.

"We hope we can review and refine a set of components. After all, solving traffic is not the responsibility only of the MMDA. We all have to do our part," Binay said.

The inclusion of PUBs in the implementation of UVVRP will complement the EMERG (Organized Bus Route Rights) program, which seeks to limit buses on Edsa through a subsidized fleeting of buses from common terminals.

According to DBP chief Antonio Pagdanganan Jr., reducing the number of buses a day by at least 20 percent, will reduce the traffic on major roads.

"Statistically speaking, that would be a big help. We only need to cut down the number of buses by a few percentage points, and we can see a noticeable improvement in traffic conditions," he said.

Binay also ordered the Traffic Operations Center to further limit the issuance of UVVRP exemptions for as much as 50 percent.

He said the local coding scheme can counter to the MMDA's traffic reduction program.

Under MMDA Regulation No. 96-008, only ambulances, police, military, fire trucks, and government vehicles, diplomatic vehicles with diplomatic plates and duly identified school buses are exempted from the number coding scheme.

To push through with its plans, the MMDA must draft a new resolution which should be approved by the Metro Manila Council composed of Metro Manila mayors.

Residents appeal to QC gov't: Remember lessons of Payatas

TEN YEARS AFTER THE PAYATAS garbage slide in Quezon City that killed a still undetermined number of people, with only some 200 bodies retrieved, the victims and their families have not obtained justice as garbage dumping continues to the site of the catastrophe.

The appeal to President Benigno Simeon Aquino III to honor pledge for he is also a resident of Quezon City. He again commissioned that fateful day yesterday to help appease the souls of the victims, console their families, and ensure as there will be no more garbage slide so we can sleep peacefully at night and reach productively during the day" said Miss Binay, resident and leader for the Barangay Kaligayahan Homeowners in the area.

The residents had appealed to the previous Quezon City administration headed by then mayor and now Sen. Feliciano Belmonte Jr., several times to no avail, and Joey Itura, president of Barangay Kaligayahan Homeowners.

"We intend to approach the new QC administration again with the help of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Ramon Paje," he said.

"But the residents are pinning their hopes on President Aquino because this is Mother Business and Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte are virtually an extension of the previous administration," Paje added.

Binay is also appealing to the people of Quezon City not to forget the presence of the garbage mountain which was originally known as "Lupang Pangako (Promised Land)" for settlers like her, and which used to be a clean community of modest houses surrounded by trees, vegetable gardens and small businesses. "Now it's Lupang Impyerno (Land of Nightmares)," she said.

Shabu lab found after cops raid town house in Manila

By Jeannette I. Andrade

POLICE HARRIS FIVE DURING nationals and seized P1.09 million worth of shabu, chemicals, and laboratory equipment in a raid late Thursday night in a rented house in Malate.

Operatives of the National Capital Region Police Office Regional Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force (RIDSOTG-NARBOTF) swooped down on Unit 9-L Earnvilla Mansion along Nova Panaderos Street in Malate, and arrested Michael Ang, 24; Mary Yuan Yuet, 48; Danny Tan, 38; Agot Co, 50; and Eugene Go, 52.

The RIDSOTG-NARBOTF team, led by Supt. Leo Ernandez, conducted the raid at around 10 p.m. backed up by a search warrant issued by Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 2-1 Judge Amor Reyes.

Policemen confiscated 20 kilograms of shabu, several containers of shabu chemical precursors, equipment for the manufacture of methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu) and P20,000 in cash found inside the house.

RIDSOTG chief Director Roberto Rosales said the suspects' neighbors observed the presence of the shabu laboratory from the dining area of their house.

He added that most of the equipment were still wrapped in plastic, explaining that the illegal trade was still in its initial stage of operations.

Manila Police District (MPD) Director Asst. commander Supt. Shaiful Ajang said one of the suspects had been running the town house for nine years now, but they had no information on when the unit was used for the manufacture of shabu.

The suspects are in the custody of the RIDSOTG-NARBOTF pending the filing of charges of violation of Republic Act 9165, or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, against them in the Manila Prosecutor's Office.

TAKING A BREAK
A fellow raider takes time out to give his pet dog a bath on Pasay Rd. close to the Baywalk area along Roxas Boulevard.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Central Luzon Regional Office
Cabanatuan City

NOTICE OF SALE THRU MARKET DETERMINED PRICING (SMDP) AND AUCTION OF NFA RICE STOCKS

The National Food Authority, Central Luzon Regional Office with address at Maharlika Highway, Cabanatuan City invites all interested licensed grains businessmen to participate in the Sale Thru Market Determined Pricing (SMDP) and/or auction of rice stocks stored in the warehouses of Regional Office Central Luzon, NFA Region III, under the following particulars, schedule of activities and terms and conditions:

I. KIND OF SALE, COMMODITY, LOCATION, QUALITY AND PRICE

There are two (2) modes in the sale of NFA rice as covered by the Terms of Reference:

I. Sale thru Market Determined Pricing (SMDP)

PROVINCE	WAREHOUSE	VARIETY	MT	BAGS	INDICATIVE PRICE
Bulacan	Sta. Rita Int'l. San Miguel	YUGOPAW (25% Broken)	7.70	14,000	P27.77/kg

II. Auction

PROVINCE	WAREHOUSE	VARIETY	MT	BAGS	MINIMUM BID PRICE
Tarlac	Aguso Warehouse 1	RR13 (Local Rice)	1,000	21,740	P23.00/kg
	Aguso Warehouse 2	RR13 (Local Rice)	971	13,440	P23.00/kg
	Aguso Warehouse 3	RR13 (Local Rice)	1,540	30,000	P23.00/kg
		TOTAL	3,000	65,044	

II. VOLUME ALLOCATION

a. Retailers: 100 MT - Maximum
b. Wholesalers, Traders and other grains businessmen: 250 MT - Maximum

III. PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS AND PAYMENT OF SMDP FEES

1. Interested are the pre-qualifications documents to be submitted:
   a) Letter of Intent to Participate signed by the licensee or authorized representative
   b) Certified photocopy of applicable NFA license/accreditation
   c) For the authorized representative, may represent Special Power of Attorney (SPA) if duly proven/copy, or Board Resolution and Secretary's Certificate, if corporation, indicating therein the full name and specimen signature of the representative authorizing the same to transact business in behalf of the owner/company to make payments, sign tender form and NFA warehouse documents, withdrawal of books and other activities
2. The prospective bidders who have submitted the pre-qualification documents and paid the corresponding commitment fee (MOP/Auction fee of P200.00 for retailers and P1,000.00 for Wholesalers, Traders and other grains businessmen) are qualified to purchase SMDP/Auction documents from NFA Region 3 Auction Committee Secretariat, NFA Central Luzon Regional Office, Maharlika Highway, Cabanatuan City.

IV. SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Activities	Venue	First SMDP/ Auction	Second SMDP/ Auction	Time
Issuance of SMDP/ Auction Documents	NFA-CLRO, Cabanatuan City	July 12, '10, and thereafter	July 19, '10 and thereafter	8:00AM to 5:00PM
Pre-SMDP/Auction Conference	NFA-CLRO, Cabanatuan City	July 13, 2010	July 20, 2010	10:00AM
SMDP/Auction Proper	NFA-CLRO, Cabanatuan City	July 13, 2010	July 20, 2010	2:00PM

V. INSPECTION OF STOCKS

Prospective bidders have the option to inspect the stocks at the warehouse but drawing or taking out of samples is prohibited. Inspection of the stocks shall be on regular working days from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

VI. NO SELECTION BASED AND POSTING OF BID BOND

The sale is on "AS IS, OF WHERE IS" basis and segregation or selection shall not be allowed. The bid offer must be accompanied by Letter bond equivalent to 10% of the total value offered in the form of cash and/or manager's/cashier's check payable to NFA-Auction by a reputable commercial bank.

The documents to be purchased are the Terms of Reference and Tender Form. For further inquiries, please contact the Secretariat at telephone numbers (044) 600-0122, (044) 463-1169 and (044) 600-2026.

NFA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or formalities in such manner and across the process, and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders, and to accept any such bids, time extension/s as the government.

(SGD.) ANGEL G. IMPERIAL, JR.
Assistant Regional Director/
Chairperson, Auction Committee

Budget cuts

From page A-9

pressed. No ordinances shall be passed authorizing any transfer of appropriations from one item to another.

The same code says the mayor or the presiding officer of the city council "may be authorized by ordinance to augment any item in the approved annual budget for their respective offices from savings in other items within the same expense class of funds respective appropriations."

"We want them to clarify why our budget was cut, to duly elected public officials, we also have rights and we need funds to perform our respective jobs," Bella told Inquirer.

No reduction

Budgets for other offices in the Makati city government were not reduced, it was learned.

Peña's senior aide, Henry Yeo, said the intent of the Sangguniang was meant to cripple the offices who had opposed the new mayor, Jejomar Erwin Binay Jr., and his father, Vice President Binay, in the last elections.

The vice mayor, however, said he hopes the matter is settled once he had just initiated reconciliation talks with the younger Binay.

Peña was on the same ticket as former Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado, who ran for mayor to the May 10 election, hoping to beat the son of the then longest-serving mayor of Makati.

Asistio said the assignment was based on a very ordinance in Davao. In 2009 authorizing the mayor to transfer funds from one office to another.

"It was a verbal order to use by the then mayor. Transferring funds has been a practice, really. Sometimes, the mayor's priorities change," Asistio said.

Normal

Joey Salgado, head of Makati's public information office, said the assignment is "part of the normal course" in the city government, and the city council.

"We're rationalizing the need for certain activities. As the local executive concerned, they have their own legislative unit. Why would there be a need for another?" he said.

Asked why the mayor opted to cut the budget of the two offices audited by persons who had not joined them in the last elections, Asistio said: "It's hard to say that they are being singled out. The letters also have allies in the city council."

The majority of the councilors who voted in the last elections are allies of the vice mayor.

Grandmother gives up life

From page A-9

Cecile, who remains in police custody, admitted that he and the bus driver failed to see the pair in front of the bus since their eyes were on the rear-view mirror watching passengers disembark from the vehicle.

He claimed he did not know the identity of the bus driver, saying he was new on the job.

Land and follow-up operations are underway for the arrest of the bus driver.

A pitiful sight at the Batasan

ON TARGET
Ronnie Tiafo

PRESIDENT AQUINO SISTERS Bailey Cruz and Pinky Abellera turned down a VIP treatment at the House Appropriations Committee (HAC) and insisted on being treated as ordinary passengers.

Immigration agents saw them queuing up at the departure area and offered their assistance, but the two ladies politely turned them down.

Bailey and Pinky haven't changed over the years.

They were unassuming, humble and less fancy when their mom, the late President Cory, was in power.

The people who gave Gary's clean image a false note are not his children but other relatives.

* * *

What a pitiful sight: Former President and Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo breathing over to get under a rope at the famous hall of the Batasan to run away from the media!

A TV news reporter said the diminutive former President "looked like a mouse" while evading journalists.

The reporter was trying to get her to comment on a possible appearance of former Agriculture Secretary Luis "Chito" Lorenzana as a state witness in the P728-million fertilizer scam.

When she was in power, her lockjaw gaffe from the Presidential Security Group would hold at bay reporters who wanted to interview her.

GMA is now undergoing a humbling karma experience.

Arrogant people in power should be reminded that power is temporary and the earlier they realize this, the better for them.

At one swoop your career in the small people you meet on your way up, because those are the very same people you'll meet on your way down.

* * *

Rep. Ferdinand Hicap, the pro-administration lawmaker from Mindoro Occidental, is a shooting mentor and buddy of Batasan Security Chief Col. Ramon Zagala.

Hicap, who is also a member of the House Committee on Public Order and Safety, is a regular visitor to the Batasan shooting range.

Hicap is a former Philippine National Police (PNP) officer.

Zagala, a former Philippine Marine officer, is a member of the Philippine Practical Shooters Association (PPSA).

Hicap is a member of the Philippine Practical Shooters Association (PPSA).

UN to condemn sinking of S. Korean warship

UNITED NATIONS—THE UN Security Council was set on Friday to condemn the sinking of a South Korean warship but stop short of blaming North Korea directly, sources as urged by Seoul and Washington, according to a draft statement.

The text, expected to be adopted by all 15 members of the Security Council on Friday, "condemns the attack which led to the sinking of the warship in the Yellow Sea near the disputed border between the two Koreas.

It also "reaffirmers the importance of preventing such future attacks or hostilities against the ROK (South Korea)," while pressing Seoul for the "restraint" it has shown in the months following the attack.

But the text does not directly blame North Korea (DPRK) for the March 26 attack in which 46 sailors died, despite the findings of a multinational inquiry which blamed the sinking of the ship on a North Korean torpedo.

Instead, it states that in view of the findings of the investigation "which concluded that the DPRK was responsible for sinking the Cheonan, the Security Council expresses its deep concern."

"The Security Council deplores the loss of life and injuries and expresses its deep sympathy and condolences to the victims and their families and to the people and government of the Republic of Korea, and calls for appropriate and peaceful measures to be taken against those responsible for the incident aimed at the peaceful settlement of the issue," the draft text says.

The statement, already approved by the council's five permanent members Russia, China, France, Russia and the United States, now must be adopted unanimously by all 15 members.

US ambassador to the UN Susan Rice said the statement, if approved, "would send a unified message that the Security Council condemns the attack of March 26 that led to the sinking of the Cheonan."

She added that it "shows the council's unity in confirming threats to peace and security. It underscores the importance of preventing further attacks and emphasizes the critical need to maintain peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and in the larger region."

However, the text would seem to fall far short of what has been demanded in recent weeks by Seoul and by US President Barack Obama.

At the end of last month, using the global stage of a G20 summit in Toronto, Obama said the Security Council must ensure there is "a concerted and unified effort" to engage in belligerent behavior that is unacceptable to the international community."

Beijing—wielding China was always unlikely to come no based any strong censure of North Korea as Beijing is Pyongyang's closest ally providing the impoverished nation with an economic lifeline.

Pyongyang has repeatedly denied having a hand in the sinking of the Cheonan corvette close to the disputed maritime border.

On Friday in Seoul, South Korea announced it would stage a naval exercise with the United States in the Yellow Sea to deter "provocations by Pyongyang," despite strong protests from China about the drill.

"The date and methods have not yet been decided but the South Korea-US joint military exercise will be carried out," said defense ministry spokesperson Won Tae-Jae.

China warned the United States and South Korea on Thursday against holding the war games near its waters, and urged them not to worsen tensions with North Korea. AFP

China finds more milk tainted with melamine

BEIJING—CHINESE AUTHORITIES have found dairy products in at least two provinces tainted with an industrial chemical that killed six babies and sickened thousands more in 2008, state media said on Friday.

The discovery suggests scandals remains a lingering danger in China despite a crackdown two years ago that saw dozens arrested and two people, a dairy farmer and a milk salesman, executed.

Some of the recently found milk was powder that state media said was likely stockpiled instead of destroyed two years ago.

Melamine is added to watered-down milk to make it appear rich in protein by tricking test that measure nitrogen, found in both the melamine and protein. Health problems from the chemical include kidney stones and kidney damage.

In June, authorities found between 600 and 1,000 tons of the illicit powder tainted with melamine at a factory in the far western province of Qinghai, the official Xinhua News Agency said, in a separate case, they said they seized about 1,000 packets of tainted milk powder in the northeastern province of Jilin.

Xinhua said the owner and a production manager from the factory in Qinghai have been detained. The report said some of the milk products at the Dongyuan Dairy Factory had 1000 times the legal limit for melamine.

The report said some of the material was believed to be old powder that should have been destroyed in 2008 amid a crackdown on tainted milk but that it was mixed into new.

Xinhua said the Dongyuan Dairy Factory in Qinghai purchased the problem goods from Shaanxi and Hebei producers and sold it in Jiangsu and Zhejiang—a supply chain that suggests authorities' milk products would still be available in many parts of the country. AP

RUN, HERE COME THE BULLS
Ohio man was gored and two others injured in a panic-filled third running of the bulls on Friday at Spain's San Fermin festival that saw at least three people rent airborne by the beasts. —

Obama loses drilling moratorium in the Gulf

WASHINGTON—A FEDERAL APpeals court on Thursday turned down the Obama administration's effort to enforce a six-month moratorium on deep-water drilling in the Gulf of Mexico.

A three-judge panel of the US Court of Appeals in New Orleans ruled shortly after a hearing in a lawsuit filed by companies that claim they are being financially crippled by the suspension of drilling.

The Interior Department said the moratorium was necessary because of the uncertainties about the cause of the BP oil well blowout in April, a shortage of response equipment and a need to order safer new drilling rules. The moratorium was struck down by a lower court on June 22 by a federal judge who found it arbitrary and economically ruinous to industry.

The appeals court found that the Interior Department failed to show the federal government would suffer "irreparable injury" if the moratorium is lifted while it appeals the trial court's decision.

A senior administration official said earlier Thursday that the Interior Department would immediately issue a new moratorium if it lost the court case. Those new regulations, revising the earlier suspension, could come as early as Friday.

In the afternoon hearing, industry lawyers urged the court to uphold the lower court ruling striking down the moratorium.

"People are being put out of jobs," said Carl D. Rauschhuber, a lawyer representing Hornbeck Offshore Services, a Louisiana firm that provides goods and services to offshore drilling and pumping platforms. Rigs are leaving the gulf, and companies are laying workers off, he said.

Government lawyers responded that the suspension of drilling was justified. Michael S. Gray, a Justice Department lawyer representing the administration, said Congress gave the Interior Department the authority to take such actions to prevent the environment and workers safety. AFP, PET

Australia: Google's map service broke privacy law

SYDNEY—GOOGLE BROKE Australia's privacy law when it collected private information from wireless networks, the country's privacy commissioner said on Friday, following an investigation into the Internet giant's "Street View" mapping service.

Several other countries are investigating Google over the data collection, and the case is likely to reassure busy regulators and consumer watchdogs worldwide that Google isn't serious enough about people's privacy—a charge the company denies.

In May Google acknowledged it had mistakenly collected fragments of data over payload data broadcast by WiFi networks in more than 30 countries while it was taking pictures of neighborhoods for the Street View feature. Google said it discovered the problem after German regulators launched an inquiry.

At the time, Australia's Communications Minister Stephen Conroy dubbed it the "single greatest breach in the history of privacy."

On Friday Privacy Commissioner Karen Curtis said her investigation was complete and she had determined Google breached Australia's Privacy Act.

"Collecting personal information in these circumstances is a very serious matter," Curtis said in a statement. "Australians should reasonably expect that private communications remain private."

Curtis said she act prevented laws from imposing any fines. She is very happy, but that is not the final goal for us, a privacy picture. The final goal for us is social orientation," or allowing the persons to understand a life not harassed by a determined hacker.

Shrink called the French operation, similar to one carried out in Barcelona in April, a new achievement in facial transplants, a procedure that has gradually gained global acceptance and overcome skepticism since the first was conducted in 2005, also in France.

Lantieri claimed the latest surgery was the first involving so many different facial features. The hospital said the operation was the 12th face transplant worldwide since the first conducted in 2005 on the nose, mouth and chin of a woman disfigured by a dog attack.

Replacing eyelids and tiny nerves to reconstruct eyelashes, other surgeons said. The entire procedure was reportedly successful, although the patient can blink normally in one eye but not the other.

Hospital workers already have shaved stubble growing out of Jerome's new chin, he said.

Neither Lantieri nor the hospital would give further details about Jerome, including his name, or the donor, except to confirm that the donor was male.

Dr Bohdan Pomahac, who has performed facial transplant surgery at Brigham and Women's University in Boston, hailed Lantieri's surgery as "a great contribution of the principle that we can reconstruct what couldn't be reconstructed before."

"We are still learning," Pomahac said. Lantieri's work shows "a great new avenue to explore."

Surgeons at the Vall d'Hebron Hospital in Barcelona, Spain, said they carried out the world's first full face transplant in April on a young Spanish farmer unable to breathe or eat on his own since accidentally shooting himself in the face. Doctors lifted the jaw, nose, cheekbones, muscles, teeth and eyelids from a donor and placed it inside the man. The surgeon, Joan Pere Barret, would not comment on Thursday on Lantieri's procedure. AP

LANTIERI —

Arrest of suspect in 'Grim Sleeper' killings fans US debate on DNA policy

LOS ANGELES—THE ARREST IN the case of the "Grim Sleeper"—a serial killer who terrorized South Los Angeles for two decades—has put one of the hottest controversies in US law enforcement back front and center.

Only two states, Colorado and California, have a codified policy permitting the use of familial search, the use of DNA samples taken from convicted criminals to track down relatives who may have committed a crime. It is a practice that derelict attorneys and the police say is an essential tool in solving otherwise elusive criminals, but that privacy experts criticize as a threat to civil liberties.

The north, law enforcement struck a significant blow for the practice when the Los Angeles Police Department used it to arrest a man who they say has served at least 10 residents here over 25 years. It is the first time an active familial search has been used to solve a homicide case in the United States.

Lonnie D. Franklin Jr., 57, was charged on Thursday with 10 counts of murder and one of attempted murder after the state DNA lab discovered a DNA link between evidence from the old crime scenes and that of Franklin's son, Chatsworth, who was recently convicted of a felony weapons charge.

FRANKLIN during arraignment —

The information developed from the son's familial search program suggested that Christopher Franklin was a relative of the source of the DNA from the old crime scenes. The police confirmed the association of Lonnie Franklin through searching of DNA from a discarded pizza slice. The match provided the crucial link to a seemingly unsolvable crime that struck terror and hopelessness throughout one of the city's poorest areas for years.

"This is truly a breakthrough," said Rep. Gov. Jerry Brown, whose office wrote the DNA policy, in a telephone interview. "The state of the practice democrats that law enforcement can "stop criminals in their tracks and lock up some of the most vicious and dangerous members of our society," Brown said. "That's why this technology is so important."

Although the practice is controversial in itself, it has been limited largely to Colorado in the United States. But in 2008, the California Department of Justice began using familial searches... in the face of significant pressure—to solve hard crimes. The state contended the practice to major, violent crimes in which all other investigative techniques had proved fruitless.

Those who oppose the technique argue that does an inherent privacy concerns, and that it serves, in essence, as a form of racial profiling because a higher proportion of inmates are members of minorities. AFP

1st RVR AWARD FOR NATION BUILDING: NOT ONE, BUT TWO AWARDEES

The Chairman of the Board of Judges of the Ramon V. del Rosario Sr. Award for Nation Building, Former Supreme Court Chief Justice Andres R. Narvasa, Vice Chairman Mr. Washington Sycip, together with the five members, including Ramon del Rosario Sr., Jesus C. Cuyugan, Jr., Oscar J. Hilado, Emilio C. de Ocampo, and Oscar C. de Rosario, in a unanimous decision, gave the first RVR Award for Nation Building to Dr. Jesus Estanislao and Mr. Jesus P. Francisco.

The Board of Judges chose two men of note to highlight the different goals and modes of achievement that these two individuals have demonstrated over several decades of professional and entrepreneurship careers.

Jesus C. Estanislao was not a multi-award civil servant, an NGO advocate, and an agribusiness manager and entrepreneur at once who is working under extremely difficult and under fragmented conditions in the southern Philippines.

Jesus P. Francisco was a distinguished business executive, a successful banker and a pioneer in financial and capital market development who has been active in many fields of endeavor over the years. He was the Board's choice to receive the award for pioneering efforts and encouragement of those in the private sector to commit their personal resources and participate in the development and promotion of good governance, particularly in the area of public-private partnerships.

Both awardees have demonstrated an uncommon commitment to the ideals that the efforts and achievements in each of these two awardees appropriately highlight the important socio-economic development needs of the Philippines in eight provinces in the south-central small and medium scale entrepreneurship. Although the two awardees have been different career paths, both are addressing pressing national challenges. All inquiries should be addressed to the Secretariat of the Ramon V. del Rosario Sr. Award for Nation Building and Corporate Social Responsibility, Mr. Ricardo Nolasco, Executive Director, at 8811-8181 local 2000 or 2001.

The Ramon V. del Rosario Sr. Award for Nation Building, established in 2012, is given annually to a Filipino citizen or group of Filipinos who have made significant contributions to the development of the Philippines through the private sector. The award is named after Ramon V. del Rosario Sr., a pioneer in the Philippine business community who founded the Philippine Investment Management, Inc. (PHINMA) in 1961. PHINMA is a diversified conglomerate with interests in cement, power, banking, education, property development, and infrastructure.

The Ramon V. del Rosario Sr. Award for Nation Building is the first award to be given by the Ramon V. del Rosario Sr. Foundation, Inc., which was established in 2012 to promote corporate social responsibility, corporate governance, and the ideals of nation building.

The Ramon V. del Rosario Sr. Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit organization that was established by the family of Ramon V. del Rosario Sr. to promote corporate social responsibility, corporate governance, and the ideals of nation building. The family of Ambassador Ramon V. del Rosario is equally pleased at the choice for the award, given the Awardees' love of and concern for their country.

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Greco

US deports 10 Kremlin agents in spy swap drama

NEW YORK—TEN RUSSIAN SPIES HEADED FOR home on Friday after being released by the United States in a sensational Cold War-style exchange for four Western agents.

The 10 pleaded guilty in a New York federal court to acting as illegal agents for Moscow and were ordered expelled from the United States, never to return.

The case, which threatened to set back improving relations between the White House and the Kremlin, reached its dramatic conclusion when the agents were put on a plane to Moscow late Thursday just hours after their court appearance, NY1 television reported.

A high-ranking Russian official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told AFP the Russian agents were expected to arrive in Russia on Friday.

Moscow has in turn agreed to release four Russians convicted of spying for Western countries.

The spies, all arrested on June 27, included Russian Anna Chapman, whose nude pictures and racy exploits made her a global tabloid sensation, and Petersburg-American journalist Vicky Pelaez, who admitted to carrying a letter written in invisible ink.

Despite the headlines, however, the spy ring appeared to have been unremarkable and made little impact in the decade since being busted.

"No significant national secrets would be gained from the prolonged incarceration in the United States of these 10 unidentified agents," Sean Dempsey, spokesperson Mark Toner said.

US Atty. Gen. Eric Holder described an "extraordinary case developed through years of work by investigators, intelligence lawyers and prosecutors.

"Said the agreement we reached today provides a successful resolution for the United States and its interests," Holder said in a statement.

COURTROOM sketch of the members of a Russian spy ring during their appearances in Manhattan Federal Court in New York on July 8. At left, an undated image of exhibit/convictees Anna Chapman taken from the Russian social networking website "Vkontakte," or Classmates. REUTERS

In New York, federal Judge Kimba Wood rushed through the procedure, sentencing the 10 to "time served" within minutes of hearing them plead guilty.

While Washington keen to draw a line under the affair has how it seriously upset improving Russian-US ties, the court session was notable for the lack of light shed on the agents' activities.

Speaking in English in several cooing Sexy Kitten Russian to Americans, all but Pelaez admitted they were Russian. Several also acknowledged taking false names to hide in deep cover.

For example, the defendants living in Michael and Cynthia Murphy were really Vladimir and Lydia Guryev, while Donald Heimbold's true name was revealed to be Andrey Bezrukov.

Only Pelaez, a Pushkinist columnist with New York's Spanish-language El Diario newspaper, gave a tantalizing hint of more James Bond-style antics. But, owing to Russian through an interpreter that she "thought it a better outfit invisible ink" to her contact.

AFP

British seniors turn spies to combat crime and litter

LONDON—LIKE MANY SENIOR citizens, this group of elderly English women keeps a close eye on goings-on in their neighborhood.

What makes them a little unusual is their use of hidden cameras, telescopes, night-vision equipment and the Internet to try to drive out troublemakers from the area.

The women, aged between 60 and 93, are part of a community group that wants to harness social networking and covert surveillance to keep tabs on litterbugs, drug dealers and others. They claim they're using technology and people power to transform lives. Others say they're simply snoops, and question how effective their actions are.

The self-named Street Pensioners is the group and the only member willing to speak publicly, says "myself and the ladies" are simply "trying to do something about the issues that never blight" their neighborhood—litter and graffiti, but also more serious crimes.

All live in the St. Peters area of Leicester, 160 kilometers north of London. It's an inner-city neighborhood with a high level of social housing, dominated by low high-rise apartment towers and blighted, residents say by unkempt strangers from littering to drug dealing.

Enter the 16 Street Neighborhood Monitoring Group—10 female retirees and Leonora, a 27-year-old with a background in technology. For more than three years, the group has been filming litterbugs and posting the footage on videos showing on YouTube to shame the perpetrators, and passing covertly shot images of more serious crimes to police.

They've recently broadened out with an account on social networking site Twitter—used to update followers on the group's activities—and a Web photo gallery of apparent misbehavior. It includes pictures of hooded youths, some with their face covered, exchanging money and small packets and in one case carrying a knife.

The carefully worded site is careful not to accuse those depicted of any crimes, saying it is often "a fly on the wall look at the daily activities and interactions of some of those who live here and others who visit this neighborhood."

The group says its goal is to expose antisocial behavior, and pressure police to do more to stop it. Lawson denied that the members are taking the law into their own hands.

"We are simply recording and publishing activity we record online," he said. "We are not calling these people drug dealers. We are letting people make up their own minds."

Lawson said the group has been advised by professional security experts and uses high-end equipment including Lawn spotting scopes and high-definition camcorders, bought with members' own money and donations from local businesses.

He said the equipment has been set up on the elderly members' private property, with the permission of the group can use it easily.

"All the ladies have to do is press the record button," he said.

AP

Suicide attack kills 55 in Pakistan tribal belt

PESHAWAR—A SUICIDE AT-tacker and suspected car bomb caused carnage in a busy Pakistani market outside a government office on Friday, killing 55 people and burying victims under debris.

The devastation struck Pakistan's town in the district of Mohmand, one of seven that make up Pakistan's northwest tribal belt that Washington has branded a global headquarters of Al-Qaeda and the most dangerous place on Earth.

It was the deadliest attack in nuclear-armed Pakistan since gunmen wearing suicide vests stormed police lines belonging to the university Ahmadi commemoration in the city of Lahore in May, killing at least 82 people.

A Taliban and al-Qaida-linked bombing spree across Pakistan has killed more than 1,300 people in three years since government troops besieged a militant mosque in the capital Islamabad in July 2007.

Witnesses said a huge explosion damaged an administration office, shops, a jail and other buildings in the town's main area for the border with Afghanistan, where 140,000 US-led foreign troops are fighting the Taliban.

Wounded Raj Wali, 23, a laborer who was working on a nearby road at the time of the blast, said he suddenly felt a massive blow to his back.

"I turned around and saw the mosque engulfed in smoke. People were crying. I also saw body parts scattered near the blast site," he said.

Rescue workers were sifting through the debris of partially collapsed buildings and their accounts that the death toll could rise. Some bodies are pulled out of the wreckage.

"There are 55 confirmed dead. Another 104 have been injured. They include major and minor injuries. The death toll may go up as there are seriously injured people," local administration official Saeed Khan told reporters.

Rescue work is also going on to retrieve people trapped in the debris."

Khan said two women and four tribal policemen were among the dead, adding that dozens of shops had been flattened.

"We suspect that there were two bombers. One was carrying explosives in a motorbike. We have already found the arm/leg of a suicide bomber that a car bomb was detonated with a remote control.

AFP

A PROTESTER breaks a window at Sears store in Oakland, Calif., after a guilty verdict for Johannes Mehserle. AP

Iran won't stone to death woman

LONDON—IRAN HAS AS-sured that a woman will not be stoned to death after being convicted of adultery following an international outcry, a paper reported on Friday.

The Islamic republic's London embassy issued a statement, saying "according to information from the relevant judicial authorities in Iran (Ayatollah Mohammadi Ashtiani) [Sic] will not be executed by stoning," according to Britain's Times daily.

But the statement did not say whether the 43-year-old would be spared or executed by hanging instead, added the paper.

Human rights group Amnesty International has said she was convicted in 2006 or 2007 and has previously received a flogging of 99 lashes.

The United States and Britain have led global condemnation of the planned stoning execution.

British Foreign Secretary William Hague on Thursday labelled the punishment as "medieval," saying it would "disgust and appall" the rest of the world.

"I'm appalled by reports of the imminent execution," he said.

"I think that stoning is a medieval punishment that has no place in the modern world and the continued use of such a punishment in Iran demonstrates to our view a blatant disregard for human rights."

"I think if this punishment were carried out, it would disgust and appall the watching world," he added.

In Washington, State Department spokesperson Mark Toner said: "Stoning as a means of execution is unconscionable in any era. It's barbaric and an abhorrent act."

"We condemn in the strongest terms the use of the practice of stoning anywhere it occurs as a form of legalized death by torture," he said.

At least 10 prominent names from the worlds of politics and arts signed an open letter condemning the planned stoning on Friday in the Times.

AFP

China monk confesses to murder of priest, nun

BEIJING—POLICE HAVE AR-rested a 43-year-old Catholic monk who confessed to the murder earlier this week of a priest and a nun in northern China, state media reported on Friday.

The corruption, identified as Zhang Wenqiang, was taken into custody on Thursday on Hebbot in the Inner Mongolia region, and later confessed to the double homicide, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

Police are still investigating, the report said. A motive for the crime was not immediately clear.

The priest, Zhang Shuke, and the nun, Mei Hanhui, were found dead on Tuesday in the morning farm where they worked, in a church in the city of Weifuo.

The Xinhua report suggested they were members of the official Chinese Catholic Church Association, a Vatican-based news agency, had reported they were members of a church not sanctioned by the government.

China has about five million Catholics who worship at Communist Party-sanctioned "official" churches, while up to 12 million reportedly worship at "underground" churches not approved by Beijing.

AFP

Officer convicted in US train station killing

LOS ANGELES—A WHITE former transit officer was convicted involuntary manslaughter on Thursday in the videotaped shooting death of an unarmed black man as an Oakland train platform, a verdict that touched off violent protests in Oakland that damaged businesses and led to at least 50 arrests.

Prosecutors had wanted Johannes Mehserle convicted of murdering 22-year-old Oscar Grant, who was shot once in the back as he lay face down.

The jury's conviction on the lesser charge raised concerns of a repeat of the days of rioting that followed the shooting on New Year's Day in 2009. The incident is among the most notable pulverizing cases in California since four Los Angeles officers were acquitted in 1992 in the beating of Rodney King.

Near Oakland City Hall, a crowd estimated at several on Thursday when they heard the verdict, decrying what they called a lack of justice.

At least a dozen business were damaged after 9 p.m., including a Foot Locker store that was looted and a jewelry store that was smashed. Elsewhere, were also smashed at several other businesses. Firefighters put out fires in several trash cans and at least one dumpster.

One person suffered a leg injury when some protesters started throwing rocks and bottles, officials said.

Oakland Police Chief Anthony Batts said that at least 50 people had been arrested and expected the number to double.

"We deserve better than this," he said. "This city is not the Wild Wild West. We will allow people to protest and are will allow them to do it peacefully."

Batts says officers from 11 different agencies responded to help Oakland police.

Before the incidents, Batts had described a mostly peaceful protest, although a small incendiary device had been set off near his department's downtown station.

The chief's briefing came as fears of police in the city get violated to keep the crowd confined to a two-block area in the city's downtown area.

"There is no need for this. This entire area looks like mayhem. We came here for peace," said Jonathan Stoner, 34, who watched the Foot Locker looters with disappointment. "That is a justification for the verdict."

Some streets in Oakland had been deserted after workers turned to their trash-to-pieces of possible riots.

The anger is directed at the involuntary manslaughter conviction—the lowest offense Mehserle faced.

AP

IN THIS ISSUE
■ FPHC earmarks P6B for shares buyback plan /B2
■ Farmers secure P3.3B in loans from Landbank /B3
■ US jobless claims drop, offer hope for recovery /B5

Editor Raul G. Marcelo ● Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano
BUSINESS

Vehicle sales surged by 37% in first half

Some car models said to have supply problems due to increase in demand

By Abigail L. Ho

VEHICLE SALES IN THE FIRST HALF SURGED BY 37.1 percent to 82,147 units, from 59,909 units in the same period last year, reflecting increased consumer confidence and a better economic outlook for the rest of the year.

According to data from the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. and the Truck Manufacturers Association, sales in June alone were 8.5 percent higher at 15,109 units. It was by far the highest sales registered for a single month.

Considering the industry's strong performance in the first semester, Ginapi president Elizabeth Lee said the group would consider revising upward its full-year sales target, which was set at 147,000 units—an 11-percent growth from the previous year.

Ginapi's original growth projection for the year was only 4 percent, but this was revised and raised [illegible], following strong sales in the first four months.

"Based on the performance of the past two quarters, the year for here on for [illegible] sales volume opportunities for the coming months. There may be an opportunity as well to review and re-adjust the forecast for the year," Lee said.

As in previous months, commercial vehicles accounted for both of the sales in the first six months, posting a 39.6-percent growth to 53,925 units from 38,567 units last year.

The light commercial vehicle sub-segment—comprised mainly of vans, pickups, and compact and full-size sport utility vehicles—posted the strongest growth in the first half at 50.1 percent to 35,033 units, from the 23,336 units sold in the same period last year.

Sales of Asian utility vehicles were likewise strong, reaching 17,750 units, a 27.6-percent improvement from the previous year's 13,894 units.

Passenger car sales also expanded to 28,222 units in the first six months, up 32.2 percent from the 21,342 units sold in the same period a year ago.

"Previously, due to the sharp double-digit growth, supply for some models

TURN TO B2

FINANCE HEAVYWEIGHTS Newly appointed Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima (second from left) emerges from a press conference as the Department of Finance building on Roxas Blvd. With him are (from left) Angelo Alfaro of Customs, Rolando Tan of Treasury and Kim Henares of Internal Revenue. (JOEY ARROYO)

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
July 9, 2010
46.20

INDICATORS
Shares close down
LOCAL SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLIMBED AWAY [illegible] following the main index's surge to a 29-month high earlier this week.
The main Philippine Stock Exchange index fell 3.6 points, or 0.1 percent, to close at 3,290.88 points.
Stocks fell despite the wave of optimism that swept Wall Street in the night before, which pushed the Dow Jones Index 120 points or 1.2 percent up to 10,136.6 points.
Value turnover was P1.23 billion. Advance rates a

STOCK MARKET
July 9, 2010
3.6

FPHC earmarks P6B for shares buyback plan

Program to start on July 12 this year, end in '12

By Doris C. Dumlao

LOPEZ LED FIRST PHILIPPINE Holdings Corp., awash in cash from the sale of a substantial stake in power utility Manila Electric Co., has earmarked P6 billion for a shares buyback program for the next two years.

At the current price of P52.00 per share, the budget is equivalent to about 115 percent of the company's total outstanding common shares, FPHC disclosed on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

The buyback will start on July 12 this year and conclude on July 11, 2012.

FPHC said the number of shares, the amount and the buyback period would be subject to revision by the board or by the executive committee from time to time as the circumstances might warrant and changes would be disclosed as required.

"The program will not involve action and exchequer solicitation from stockholders in general. It is not expected to adversely affect the company's current projects and its future prospects," FPHC said.

It said the program would be executed through the open market through the trading facilities of the PSE and implemented by the company's chairs/chief executive officer, president/chief operating officer and/or the senior vice president/treasurer/chief finance officer.

"The program is intended to strike a balance between enhancing the company's capital structure and maintaining its ability to fund future growth and investments," FPHC said.

"Buyback transactions will be triggered if the company stock is substantially undervalued, where there is high volatility in share prices or in any instance where a buyback should serve to improve shareholder value," it said.

In the meantime, FPHC announced the resignation of Jose P. de Jesus as a director of the company and as member of the Audit and investment committee. De Jesus was named compensation and communication secretary by President Benigno Simeon C. Aquino III.

Cadan gets ECC for T'boli project

Disclosures

MCMLXXIX Prime Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 20, 2 p.m. at Meeting Rooms Rated B, SMB Convention Center, Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City. Stockholders of record as of July 1 will be entitled to vote at the said meeting.

***

THE BOARD of **Globe Telecom Inc.** has confirmed the appointments of Solomon Hermosura as corporate secretary and Maricarmen Consing-Go as compliance officer.

***

THE BOARD of **Leisure and Resorts World Corp.** has elected Raymundo F. Barting as president of the company and its subsidiaries, replacing Alfredo Abalajon Benitez, who resigned on June 23.

***

JOLLIBEE Foods Corp. has declared the following: 954,000 common shares awarded to under the control management stock option plan and the executive long-term incentive plan on July 7.

***

BPI-Ayala Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 28, 2 p.m. at the BPIG Board Room, 34F-BDO Plaza Tower II, 6814 Ayala Ave., Makati City. Stockholders of record as of June 30 are entitled to attend and vote at the meeting. Compiled by Inquirer Research

By Rica T. Orbeta

CANADIAN MINING COMPANY Cadan Resources Corp. said it was set to ramp up multi-ground development work for the T'boli gold silver project in South Cotabato.

Incidentally, the province's board recently passed an environmental code that bans open pit mining. Cadan's development work, however, involves a different method.

Company president and CEO Brent Taylor said in a report that Cadan had obtained an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) for the ongoing mine development of its T'boli gold-silver mine.

The ECC also gives environmental clearance for a processing plant to be constructed in a later development phase.

"We are delighted with this approval as it accelerates our progress toward full scale production. Environmental permitting is a critical component of mining today. Studying this document make sure not only expedites our mine development program, it also reassures investors to continue with the exploration and development phase of our highly prospective land package," Taylor said.

Cadan's updated resource report showed a 56-percent increase in gold grade, with indicated resources at 800,000 tons with 0.5 grams of gold per ton, and inferred resources of 434,000 tons with 0.6 grams of gold per ton.

The report records for the underground development work to access additional mineral targets to expand the resource, as well as further bulk sampling and trial milling," Taylor said.

Underground exploration and development of three known vein systems continue, with an exploration production decline now having reached blank 'mm E, North 'mm A and now advancing toward the gold-rich South 'mm, according to Cadan.

Regional exploration of known gold-silver mine candidates, including North veins C, D, E and F, Lun Asim, Tenga and surrounds.

Further, Cadan signed a joint venture deal with an Australian company for the development of its Tagpuro Hill copper-gold project in Compostela Valley in Eastern Mindanao.

SN-Aboitiz deal with NGCP OKd

By Alitp B. Bueza

THE ENERGY REGULATORY Commission has allowed SN-Aboitiz Power-Magat to provide the much needed additional ancillaries, or the so-called ancillary services, to the Luzon grid, through its 100-megawatt Binga hydropower plant in Benguet.

In its decision, the ERC has granted provisional approval to the Ancillary Services Procurement Agreement (Aspa) between SNAP-Benguet and National Grid Corp. of the Philippines (NGCP).

According to the ERC, it was necessary to tap power generation companies—other than state-run Napocor—which were capable of providing ancillary services, to meet the required capacity.

The ERC said a significant portion of ancillary services used to be provided by Napocor through its number of government-owned power facilities. To date, however, more than 90 percent of Napocor's power generating assets had already been sold and turned over to the private sector, under the privatization mandate of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act.

Similarly, the implementation of the Aspa will "redound to the benefit of all consumers of the PSCP in Luzon in terms of continuous, reliable, and efficient power supply." the commission said.

Ancillary services refer to the capacities needed to maintain a stable and reliable operation of the interconnected transmission system.

Vehicle sales . . .

From page B1

had to catch up with the increased demand. Supply of stocks has started to normalize, serving the growing demand that continues to be robust. The industry also continued strong growth in the coming months," Lee said.

Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. continued to be the industry's No. 1 player, selling 26,493 units for a 32.3-percent share of the market.

Holding the No. 2 spot was Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp., which further expanded its market share to 19.1 percent by selling 15,683 units in the January-June period.

Hyundai Asia Resources Inc. held the third slot with 8% of industry sales having 9,834 units for a market share of 12 percent.

Shares close down

From page B1

moderate 1.48 billion shares. There were 98 advancers and 81 decliners, while 76 issues were unchanged.

The broader All-shares index slipped 0.81 percent, or 9.59 point, to 2,347.47 points.

The main index scored the 1,600 level for the second day in a row before profit-taking pushed prices down. Frederick Ang of Philstocks Financial Inc. said the market was "overbought" and "overdue for a correction."

BTr eyes new products

By Bernie W. Dominguez

THE BUREAU OF THE TREASury is looking at new products to ramp up revenue amid a bulging budget deficit.

Products being considered include peso-denominated offerings to overseas buyers.

National Treasurer Roberto B. Tan said the government would focus more on peso bor rowings even in global markets.

There "will be an innovative alternative for foreign investors but denominated in peso," Tan said.

He said the government called for wider advice from its partner banks on the kind of debt paper the new product would be and the maturity.

According to Tan, the BTr is exploring hedging facilities to manage liabilities in the government revenues in financing plan.

He said the direction was to increase peso-denominated debts in the mix of borrowings.

"We are also looking at pursuing more bond swaps and maybe there is a regular part of [government securities] auctions," Tan added.

The planned peso bonds for foreign buyers will not be as lively new as the Asian Development Bank bid war announced that its $1.6 billion Asian Currency Bond Program (ACBP) now includes the yuan and the new Taiwan dollar.

The ACBP used to cover only the Singapore dollar, Hong Kong dollar and Malaysian ringgit. It is the first regional platform in Asia dedicated to issuances of bonds in local currencies.

Under the scheme launched in 2006, it can issue Asian currency denominated bonds in respective domestic markets under a unified legal and documentation framework. This is seen as a way of promoting the integration of the Asian bond market and attracting wider investor base.

Also, Finance Secretary Cesar V. Purisima said part of efforts to manage the government's liabilities would be to lengthen the maturity of its finance debt.

Ad vendor Trackworks in tighter squeeze with MRT operator

By Abigail L. Hu

METRO RAIL TRANSIT DEVE... Inquirer Corp. (MRT Devco) warned that it had cancelled its advertising management contract with Trackworks Rail Transit Advertising, Sending and Promotions Inc., following non-payment of P167 million in obligations.

"Trackworks has definitely lost their contract with us when they refused to honor it. They have not paid their concession fees or rent for the past years and this is in gross violation of their contract with MRT Devco," MRT Group of Companies vice president for project development and management Roman Angeles said in a statement.

The outdoor advertising firm also lost another battle as the legal bout where the Makati Regional Trial Court last June 20 denied its prayer for a perpetual injunction in relation to the cancellation of its Edsa MRT 3 advertising management contract.

According to the court ruling, Trackworks failed to establish the grounds requisites for injunction, particularly the existence of a clear right. If such a right had been made clear, an injunction could be issued to prevent the violation of such a right.

The court noted, however, that Trackworks' right is an MRT Devco concessionaire, as well as that of its officers Joselito de Joya, Bing Enage and Hermie Bagia, were "not clear and unmistakable," as it was not necessary to enact a writ of preliminary injunction.

In short, the court recognized that MRT Devco had long since cancelled Trackworks' contract as advertising manager for the Edsa (MRT-3.

Farmers secure P3.3B in loans from Landbank

By Konrad D. Domingo

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES said it released P3.3 billion in non-collateral loans to farmers cooperatives and small and medium enterprises in the first three months of the year.

Cedric L. Rico, Landbank president and chief executive, said in a statement that the loans provided in the first quarter also benefited cooperatives, non-governmental organizations, and other farm groups.

Under Landbank's development advocacy program, the state-run bank aims to provide borrowers funds for crop production, working capital or for the acquisition of fixed assets.

Rico said that of the total amount of loans taken out from the money in March, P1.8 billion were routed through SMEs, agricultural input providers, dealers and traders.

The remaining P1.5 billion went to cooperatives, irrigators and other farm organizations, which acted as Landbank's credit conduits.

Rico said the loans extended through such conduits benefited more than 67,000 small farmers and fisherfolk.

"The development advocacy program runs every from the rigid requirements of traditional, collateral-based lending and instead adopts an economics-based approach in extending credit," she said.

The program also "supports viable projects with established markets, as well as those that make use of credit-enhancement instruments like market contracts guarantee cover," Landbank said.

Launched in 2007, the program was meant to address concerns about collateral and other requirements under Landbank's regular lending program, where many prospective borrowers fell short quickly.

As of May, Landbank said it posted a record net income of P1.52 billion in the first quarter as prudent investment strategies and aggressive lending helped it further boosting revenue.

Landbank's net income is the first three months of 2016 grew by 48 percent from P1.7 billion in the same period a year ago.

The state institution is now the country's fourth biggest bank in terms of assets, deposits, and loans.

RP device maker expects surge in MyPhone sales

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE MAKER OF LOCALLY-MOBILE phone brand MyPhone wants to sell about 1.80,000 handsets a month, translating to as much as P540 million in revenue, as the company launches more products in 2016.

According to MyM Mobility Solutions Inc. president Hugo P. Bocalan, revenues will go up from the P90 million to P150 million. Until the company currently owns Duty the sale of around 30,000 phones a month.

Bocalan said the company would "uplift" the image of its products, from being seen as affordable devices to gadgets that could offer something no other brand in the world could. Philippine-made content.

"We want to boost the image of our phones. We cannot compete with bigger brands in terms of features, so the way we differentiate ourselves is with our unique content," Bocalan said. "We have Filipino songs and prayers, and even trivia about the Philippines and embedded in all the phones we sell."

He said the unique feature would "uplift" the image of its overseas Filipino workers in mind. Over eight million Filipinos are employed abroad. The money they send back to support their families in the Philippines is considered to be a key driver of domestic consumption.

MyM Mobility is a subsidiary of listed Solid Group Inc.

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US jobless claims drop, offer hope for recovery

WASHINGTON—NEW US CLAIMS for jobless benefits fell last week to their lowest level in two months, offering cautious hope for an economic recovery that had shown signs of fatigue.

The bigger-than-expected decline in jobless claims on Thursday was a relief after a slew of weak reports had left investors fearing the economy could dip back into recession.

"Talk of a double-dip may be a little premature. Investors jumped on the double-dip bandwagon, but we don't really see it," said Alan Lancz, president of Alan B. Lancz & Associates in Toledo, Ohio.

Rates on mortgages remain painfully high and other data on Thursday showed that consumers continue to struggle.

Numbers reported to discounting to keep sales aloft in June, and the National Retailers reported that US consumer credit dropped more than expected in May.

Initial claims for state unemployment benefits dropped 23,000 to 454,000 last week, and the number of people continuing to receive benefits in the final week of June were the lowest in seven months, the Labor Department said.

Economists had expected first-time claims to decline to just 460,000.

The Federal Reserve said US consumer credit dropped by $9.15 billion in May, the 15th decline in the last 16 months.

With signs that consumers were growing cheaper with their hard-earned dollars, US retailers stepped up promotions last month to spur sales.

Sales at stores open at least a year—a benchmark of retail performance—rose 3.1 percent in June from a year earlier, just shy of the 3.2 percent increase that Wall Street predicted, according to reports on Thursday from 28 retailers tracked by Thomson Reuters.

The data reassured investors the economy was still growing following the longest and deepest recession since the 1930s. *Reuters*

J&J sales plunge due to drug recall

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY—SALES OF Johnson & Johnson pain relievers are still tapering in a string of recalls appears to have made consumers wary of store-shelving brands such as Tylenol and Benadryl.

Key retail sales up 3.1% in June

The eighth recall, announced Thursday, could worsen consumer reaction. That features and the huge amount of products pulled off store shelves together look to be costing J&J tens of millions of dollars a month.

Thursday's recall by Johnson & Johnson's McNeil consumer health care unit covers 23 lots of products, including Children's Tylenol. Three were recalled because of a musty or moldy smell, extending a large Jan. 15 recall tied to a measuring obtained in an shopping cart.

The company said the new lots were added to the recall as a precaution after an internal review found those lots, shipped and stored before Jan. 15, had been on the same type of wooden pallets.

On April 30 recall of more than 136 mil. lion bottles of children's and infants' liquid medicines. Last quarter, J&J said "many" not meet required quality standards," may remain tiny metal particles or may have too much active ingredient.

The string of recalls is an embarrassment for a company that set the standard on how to do it correctly when it comes to pull backs. Of Tylenol—deliberately poisoned by someone who was never caught—all more dubious in the early 1980s.

This time, the culprit appears to be a lack of internal quality control.

Data from market research firm Symphony IRI Group show sales of Non Brunswick, New Jersey-based J&J's pain relievers fell 16 percent in the four weeks ending June 13, compared to a year earlier.

Its figures show that US sales of pain relieving tablets, perhaps and other types of pills, including multiple strengths of Tylenol and Motrin, plunged to $229.9 million in that four-week period, putting the company behind rivals Bayer Consumer Health and Procter Gam. Sales of private label, or store brands, benefited the most from Johnson & Johnson's fall, jumping 19 percent to $53.9 million.

Meanwhile, gains in the smaller category of liquid pain relievers, such as Children's Tylenol, fell 16 percent, to just $638,000. Those figures do not include sales at Wal-mart, gas station stores and club stores.

Together, that amounts to tens of millions of dollars in revenue lost in just one month—and a big hit to the reputation of the maker of iconic products such as Johnson & Johnson's baby shampoos and Band-Aids. Gordon said sales of any product with Johnson & Johnson on it will be hurt. *AP*

Key retail sales up 3.1% in June

Above at Alan B. Lancz & Associates in Toledo, Ohio.

Asian stocks lifted by positive US data; euro holds up

A STUDENT looks at enlarged pictures of Korean won banknotes, which are put on display to teach people how to identify counterfeit notes, at the Bank of Korea Museum at the bank's headquarters in Seoul. The Bank of Korea raised interest rates on Friday for the first time since the outbreak of the financial crisis, saying inflation was likely to pick up while the economy was set to remain solid growth. AFP

HONG KONG—ASIAN STOCKS rallied for a second day and the euro held near two-month highs on Friday, supported on positive US data and after the European Central Bank's offered upbeat views of the economy in the eurozone.

The MSCI Index of Asia Pacific ex-Japan stocks rose 0.9 percent, on track for its biggest weekly gain in seven months, with the consumer discretion and energy sectors outperforming.

Tokyo's Nikkei shares average firmed 0.6 percent, holding above a key support level and after pulling away from a seven-month low. It is now poised on track its first weekly gain in three in about four months.

"The markets are flustered in worries about Europe and the possibility of a double-dip in the US economy, and it's now most likely found a floor," said Kazuhiro Takahashi, general manager at Okasan Securities Capital Markets.

Overnight, Wall Street's made a late-session rally after first time US jobless claims dropped to their lowest level in two months and handful of large retailers reported solid sales.

Interest rate increases by the South Korean and Malaysian central banks have underlined the growing confidence about their economies, while the International Monetary Fund said a double-dip recession was unlikely.

Taiwan's main TSEIX share index is on track to record its biggest weekly gain in 10 months.

The main was flat at $1.2499, after it broke past resistance at $1.2473 on Thursday when it advanced nearly 0.5 percent against the US dollar to two-month highs and jumped over 1 percent against the less-sterling yen.

BCR President Jean-Claude Trichet said on Thursday he expects the euro area economy to grow "at a moderate and still uneven pace in an environment of high uncertainty." The euro has also been supported a loans from data about Europe's bank stress tests which heartened investors, who saw criteria for the checks were no worse than markets expected. *Reuters*

Google confident of getting license to operate China website

BEIJING—GOOGLE INC. Chief Executive Eric Schmidt expressed confidence the company will secure a license to operate a website in China, confounding speculation Beijing may shut down its Digital site there.

Schmidt, addressing executives and financiers at an annual gathering of the industry's movers and shakers in the Idaho mountain resort of Sun Valley, said he expected Beijing to renew its license to operate a website as the world's largest Internet market, but offered no timeframe.

Analysts said Google's decision to stop unconditionally censoring query results on its renowned search page showed a softening of stance and willingness to compromise to maintain a foothold in China, the world's largest Internet market by users.

"We would signal we would get the necessary license," Schmidt said. "My true expect to get a renewal." Google Annual conference and comments in January when it warned it might quit the country saying it would not provide the censored search results that China requires.

The company's row with the Chinese government over Internet censorship and hacking attacks added on a burst of tensions between Washington and Beijing, which also saw diplomatic spats over China's currency, US arms sales to Taiwan and Tibet.

But tensions have subsided in recent months. On Thursday the Obama administration declined to label China a currency manipulator, and a decision to allow Google to keep its Chinese website could remove another source of tension.

In March, Google began to redirect visitors to its China website to a search site in Hong Kong that provided uncensored results.

But last week, Google said it would stop automatically censoring queries after Beijing indicated it would not renew its Internet Content Provider license if it continued to do so.

"The government views the January announcement as a loss of face," said Edward Yu, chief executive of Beijing-based research firm analysis International, speaking before Schmidt's comments.

"But I think Google has now made this move, there is a chance they will most probably meet in the middle and Google will get the license."

China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology said on Wednesday that it was reviewing Google's license renewal application but gave no deadline for completion. *Reuters*

Berkshire downgraded to sell because of weak US economy

OMAHA, NEBRASKA—AN ANALYST advised investors Thursday to sell shares of Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Inc. because the US economy may weaken over the rest of the year and hurt demand for its businesses that rely on consumer spending.

Merrill Lynch analyst Wayne Hindels said in a research note that declining consumer confidence will likely slow consumer spending.

Oil prices could also rise and hurt other ordinary consumer spending.

Berkshire's insurance businesses, like Geico and General Re, generated more than half the company's $6.1 billion profit last year, but its shipping, furniture, jewelry, railroad and building materials businesses are sensitive to the health of the economy.

Hindels also said Berkshire may not have room to invest spending in its economic downturn because of its derivative contracts and investments.

Some of Berkshire's derivatives are tied to the value of several stock market indexes, so their value would fall if financial markets tumbled.

Berkshire's Class B shares slipped 10 cents to $79.42 in late afternoon trading Thursday.

Berkshire officials don't typically comment on analyst reports, and the Omaha company hasn't provided earnings guidance in decades. Buffett didn't immediately respond to a message Thursday.

In the past, the estimated value of Berkshire's derivative contracts have weighed down the company's earnings even though they don't mature until more than a decade from now.

BILLIONAIRE Investor Warren Buffett has donated another $1.45 billion to the charitable foundations, the third-highest amount since the investor began donating 99 percent of his wealth in 2006, according to a July 1, 2010 filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission. REUTERS

Berkshire recorded a largely unrealized net loss of $4.6 billion on its investments and derivatives in 2008, but as stock markets improved last year, Berkshire's derivatives helped the company record a $486 million net gain on derivatives and investments in 2009.

Buffett has said he believes Berkshire's derivatives will ultimately prove profitable over their lifetimes, and he has encouraged investors to ignore the wild swings in their investment value from quarter to quarter.

Morningstar analyst Bill Bergman said even though Berkshire is economically sensitive, it owns a number of businesses that have avoided pain earlier than its last time.

"It's times like these that you buy into the tough companies that may be economically sensitive," Bergman said. Morningstar doesn't currently recommend buying Berkshire's stock. *AP*

To the first quarter of this year, Berkshire's manufacturing and retail businesses improved significantly and contributed $677 million to the company's net income of $1.6 billion.

Buffett said in May that the improvement at manufacturing businesses like the Iscar tool makers, apparel companies like Fruit of the Loom, and luxury good sellers like Forest River RVs and Berkshire's jewelry businesses showed the economy was improving.

But Berkshire remains a conduit of businesses tied to housing, that holds's improved much by the end of the first quarter.

And Berkshire's recent acquisition of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad only increases its economic sensitivity because companies ship heavy cars, chemicals, crops, lumber and containers of imported goods when the economy is clear.

Berkshire owns roughly 80 boat companies and it has big investments in companies including Coca-Cola Co. and Wells Fargo & Co. *AP*

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SCIENCE/HEALTH

Herbs are not the enemy—experts

By Tessa R. Salazar

ARE MORE AND MORE SYNthetic drugs are being transformed by the pharmaceutical industry, increasing numbers of scientists and nutritionists are likewise looking into the other end of the medicinal spectrum—at herbal remedies or the so-called "nature's own pharmacy."

Through interviews do-users of the advocates of certain herbs, especially if taken without the guidance of professional experts, and the aggressive marketing of herbal products, they agree that herbal medicines have, throughout human history, generally proven themselves effective.

Powerful ingredients

Nutritionist-expert Phyllis A. Balch, author of "Prescription for Nutritional Healing," observes that many herbs do contain powerful ingredients that, if used correctly, could actually help heal the body. She also stresses that, when taken into perspective, the pharmaceutical industry owes a lot of its existence to herbal sources. "The pharmaceutical industry was originally based upon the ability to isolate these ingredients and make them available in a pure form."

Balch also adds that herbalists have long known that these medicinal plants possess other ingredients in a way "to balance" the potent effects of the main substance.

She observes that these "other ingredients" may act as buffers, synergists, or nutritional balancers working to harmonize with the more powerful ingredients. Therefore, she says, herbs taken in their complete form provide more benefits than harmful side-effects, the human body able to utilize this balance of ingredients more efficiently.

Dr. Philip Cruz, a pharmacist and medical doctor, agrees with Balch. He adds, though, that the pharmaceutical industry has brought the extraction of the active ingredients of medicinal plants down to a more concentrable version, including safety and quality monitoring. On the other hand, he says, herbal products lack well-documented clinical trials. Herbal products are also susceptible to contamination, if, he observed, and any variation in dosage of a particular herbal medicine can result in disastrous effects. There have been cases of kidney and liver failure from intake of these herbs packaged in the form of supplements if not taken in the proper manner.

"I hope Filipinos go beyond the marketing and branding of herbal medicines into supplements making outrageous claims. (They should be) informed and empowered with the facts. Always consult your physician before buying an herbal supplement. Doctors are there to be your ally to one's well-being. For the manufacturer, it is their responsibility to keep track of their products in terms of safety and to be vigilant in the manner of reporting to regulatory authorities any adverse event or side effect experienced by the consumer," Cruz says.

Balch observed herbal supplements have not been subject to the same quality standards as prescription or over-the-counter drugs. She says that in order to obtain a certain level of legitimacy in the eyes of the medical world, "some manufacturers of herbal medications have been attempting to obtain a kind of certification by many private sector groups, such as the United States Pharmacopeia, to create testing programs and certifications for their products. For instance, the certification could include quality standards, label accuracy, purity standards, manufacturing and packaging standards.

"This certification does not guarantee that the product works as claimed or that it is safe for everyone to use. However, any manufacturer that has gone to the effort and expense to get a certification is certainly heading in the right direction," she clarifies.

Tips

Balch offers the following tips for manufacturers, marketers and buyers of herbal medicines:

- While most herbs aren't likely to be harmful, keep in mind that "natural" isn't necessarily the same as "safe." Like synthetic drugs, herbal preparations may not only cause allergic reactions, or affect the body's response to other medications.
- Self-treating on herbal medicines is acceptable for minor ailments only, not for serious or life-threatening conditions.
- Use only recommended amounts for recommended periods of time.
- Use the correct herb. Buy your herbal remedies from a reputable company. If you collect or grow herbs on your own, have someone or nutritionist some one to identify and/or verify the identity of the plant.
- Use the correct part of the plant. For instance, don't substitute roots for leaves. Where buying fresh herbs, check to be sure which part of the herb is required for a remedy—the whole herb, flowers, fruit, leaves, stems or roots.
- When using an herbal remedy for the first time, start with a small amount to test for possible allergic reactions.
- Don't take on-time herbs if you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant.
- Don't take herbal remedies if you are nursing a baby.
- Don't give medicinal amounts of herbs to children without first consulting your healthcare practitioner.

Letter for P-Noy… from the ICU

Excludes

WE CONGRATULATE YOUR SENSE OF priorities, Mr. President, when you said that fixing the "sad state of disrepair" of the healthcare in our country is one of the top and urgent concerns identified by your administration. I'm sure you realize that practically all your predecessors proclaimed the same thing but fell sorely short of their pledge to improve it meaningfully as the poor could really reap the benefits of the appreciation of the problem and millions more under it were then still right, but the political will was simply not strong enough.

A universal healthcare program that will benefit all Filipinos—especially the marginalized sectors—will certainly entail gargantuan costs which the allocated national health budget simply cannot afford to pay for. Our health infrastructure is not adequate to provide even basic health services for the far bigger majority of our population who cannot afford to avail of the services in private hospitals and clinics. We need to build more rural health units and barangay health stations. In addition to this, we must first equip the already existing ones, many of which are hollow health structures still, neither protected nor necessary equipment and supplies.

We have to face it, Mr. President, you and everyone's dream of a truly meaningful healthcare delivery for every Juan de la Cruz is endlessly far unless we afford if our means of financing is remains severely limited. The sad reality is that we are simply not allocating enough budget for our required health

MEDICAL FILES

Rafael Castillo, M.D.

expenditures. And unless we can already unanimously do so—provide the funds for it—your vision of a 100-percent health coverage will sadly remain a nebulous vision, Mr. President.

Trend not encouraging

Ideally, the health budget must be at least 5 percent of our GNP (gross national product). First-world countries spend 7-10 percent of their GNP for their healthcare, but it seems despite the best effort of your predecessors, the government could only afford to allocate 2.1 to 3.5 percent for our health expenditures. And the trend does not seem to be encouraging. In some years of the last 15 years, our total health budget vis-à-vis our GNP even went on a downward trend.

For 2010 for example, the health allocations is barely 2 percent of the national budget. We presumed subsequent years will increase but in actuality it's percent, but the excitement was fleeting. The next moment, we asked ourselves how you could make it possible…increasing the health budget by 150 percent (from 2 to 3 percent)—when the national budget has on the average increased by only 9-12 percent annually.

The proposed 2011 budget is only 9.1 percent higher than the 2010 budget. You will have to share the other departments' budget to increase the health allocation. Certainly health can't take a slice from education, military, public works, local government or the other departments. So to achieve the 150 percent increase in health allocation cannot be done!

I agree though, Mr. President, a strategic and trustworthy stewardship of funds can help make the most with whatever budget healthcare is given. Firstly, as you estimated, roughly 20 percent or probably more of the budget go to corruption so if your admonition to our countrymen to stop corruption by—which many unfaithful thinking but still worth aiming for—that means an outright 20-percent addition to the budget.

Secondly, nothing do with the budget also means streamlining and reducing expenditures of both the national and local governments. A huge population of our health agencies has become the base of the distribution of health services since it was implemented in the 90s. I think many funds have been wasted because of this lack of coordination. Our various national and local health agencies should get their acts together now to rationalize the use of whatever funds are allocated for health. No more duplication of activities, no more allocation of funds for competitive campaigns. Every peso in the budget should be spent wisely.

Lastly, a strategic reorientation of our health activities can make a more cost-effective utilization of funds—when it matters most—to prevent illnesses, keep the people healthy and make them live longer. Practically all reports on the healthcare situation in the country would show that almost three-fourths of our health funds are spent on curative care or personal healthcare, while leaves little funds for preventive and health-promoting services.

Most cost-effective

Preventing diseases is the mission of public healthcare, and is the most cost-effective health strategy from a population perspective. It's sad that because of the devaluation of healthcare services, health campaigns have fallen victim to political horsetrading and since curative or personal healthcare campaigns are more politically appealing—i.e. higher "political return on investment"—this gets the bulk of the health funds.

No doubt that the healthcare problems in our country can challenge even the most determined and strongly-willed leader like yourself. Well, if there's a will, the saying should prevail—as well, or so they say. But Mr. President, don't pressure yourself to achieve in three years what your predecessors failed to achieve in several decades. Always remember that a leader who tries unconditionally double mental goals, our would be happy with small steps being consistently taken in the right direction for healthcare.

And lastly, Mr. President, as you try to safeguard your people's health, please don't neglect yours, too. The nation can never be healthy if you're not.

God bless always.

Envi-health group welcomes Ona appointment

ENVI-HEALTH GROUP HEALTH CARE Without Harm-Southeast Asia welcomes the appointment of Dr. Enrique T. Ona as head of the Department of Health and hopes that "the new secretary will do more than his predecessor."

According to Merci Rentoy, hopes advocacy-high ozone campaigning Incinerator Reputasia Cabral was appointed, "In the new head of the Philippine Society of Hypertension, Cabral supervised full support to the phaseout of mercury-containing devices in healthcare during the 2006 Secchetar Ada Marcon to Health Care Conference held in Manila. The promised the same support when the business health secretary."

6 key measures

In February this year, HCWH-SEA alerted Cabral and gained support in her key measures to ensure that the public will be safe from mercury.

These include the immediate banning on importation of mercury-containing devices, continuance of project to distribute of mercury-containing devices, some information dissemination programs on the phaseout of mercury to LGU-controlled healthcare units, release of P12.3 million allocation for 66 DOH-retained hospitals to buy environmental devices under the 2009 General Appropriations Act, program to follow up on the state of the more than 20 incident victims of mercury poisoning in St. Andrew's School in Pasig incident in 2008, and progress to replace mercury devices in hospitals.

To date, only the maintenance of parts in distribution of mercury-containing devices is being implemented.

"We are hopeful and very positive that Secretary Ona can continue the legacy that Secretary Francisco Duque and Cabral have started in terms of mercury phaseout by calling for the immediate banning on importation of mercury-containing devices and other green initiatives in the healthcare setting," Perez said.

"This is the right and urgent time for Secretary Ona to implement these initiatives that were left out by the two previous secretaries."

In 2008 under former Secretary Duque, DOH issued AO 21 mandating the gradual phase out of mercury containing devices in all healthcare facilities and institutions by September 2011.

"The challenge is for Secretary Ona to ensure that Philippine healthcare system will be free of mercury containing devices on the 1st quarter of his tenure," Perez said.

Philippine Department is "no-mercury" watch for Ona. "No-mercury director of the National Kidney and Transplant Institute, he phased out all mercury-containing devices by January 2010, eight months ahead of the deadline," she said.

Deadline

The deadline for the phaseout is Sept. 11 this year. "Seventy three days in office and we believe at least 85 percent of health facilities will be mercury free with the remaining 15 percent non-complete phase-out," Perez said.

"The next crucial task is for the DOH to make sure the hospitals safely and properly store phased-out mercurial devices in their respective facilities," Perez said. The DOH along with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and other concerned stakeholders likewise need to look into possible intermediate storage area for phased-out devices," she added.

Beyond mercury phaseout, the group likewise reminds Ona of another environmental health issue that needs to be addressed.

"On top of the many issues, there is the impounded health budget that needs to be released by the new secretary that will be vital for the people."

Under the 2008 General Appropriations Act, the mentioned health budget includes P188 million for the purchase of autoclave machines for infectious medical waste treatment, the P400 million for the tuberculosis program and the P1.45 billion for family health. For 2009, the government allotted P13.2 million for purchase of mercury-free thermometers in DOH-retained hospitals.

"We call on the new leadership to take on environmental health issues and to work on positive actions not just for health but for the environment," Perez said.

HCWH is an international coalition of more than 470 organizations in 52 countries, working to transform the healthcare sector worldwide, without compromising patient safety or care, so that it is ecologically sustainable and no longer a source of harm to public health and the environment.

The one 'oil' our heart might actually need

By Charles E. Bolton

FISHES FOODS ARE RICH, RIGHT? For the longest time we were taught to stay away from fried foods or anything that has fats on it since they create our arteries to eventually clog up and lead to our untimely demise.

But scientists were baffled when they found that the Eskimos they were studying in the early '80s, particularly those living in the coast of Greenland in the North Polar region, ramped up healthier than the rest of us despite having a diet loaded with fats and almost no fruits, fibers, or green leafy vegetables.

In the experiments, they found abysmal totals that fats followed. It turned out that the Eskimos' regular consumption of fish oil did the trick.

Research has shown that unsaturated fats in fish, particularly the omega-3 fatty acids docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) and eicosapentaenoic acids, decrease risk of arrhythmias (abnormal heartbeats), which can lead to sudden death as well as decrease triglyceride levels, slow growth rate of atherosclerotic plaque and lower blood pressure (slightly).

Unanimous thumbs up

"It's not often that a nutritional supplement comes along that gets unanimous thumbs up from the scientific community as well as the general health community. Fish oil is certainly one supplement you cannot go wrong with in your quest to improve your health and protect yourself from heart disease essentially," says former health secretary Dr. Jaime Galvez Tan who spoke during the launch of Green Fish Oil (Menhaden Oil), a supplement product that contains 1,000 mg of Omega-3 fatty acids.

Tan, like many progressive doctors who see nutrition as the foundation of health and wellness, believes that much of our illnesses today is a result from a diet lacking in basic essentials.

"Essential fatty acids like the Omega-3 were once part of everyone's diets (like whenever we eat tuna, salmon sardines as well as walnuts, flax seeds and dark green vegetables). But with the increasing popularity and proliferation of processed foods, we now seldom or no longer eat foods that contain a good amount of Omega-3," he says.

Recommendations

Tan reminds that Omega-3 consumption is not just hype considering that the Aug. 11, 2009 issue of the Journal of the American College of Cardiology extensively reviewed data from a broad range of studies in tens of thousands of patients and was both suggested daily dosages for Omega-3 consumption.

From this data, the American Heart Association now recommends eating fatty fish at least two times a week while those with coronary artery disease and high triglycerides were even advised to talk to their doctor about taking Omega-3 supplements as they may not get enough Omega-3 by diet alone.

"Indeed, we now have tremendous and compelling evidence from very large studies, some dating back 20 and 30 years, that demonstrate the protective benefits of Omega-3 fish oil in reducing the reports of preventive cardiology," Tan asserts.

Catch

Interestingly, there's a catch when eating some types of fish rich in Omega-3. A lot of commercially caught, predatory fish may contain high levels of mercury, PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls), dioxins and other environmental contaminants because of the smaller fish they eat and because of their longer life spans (the longer a fish lives, the higher it grows and the more mercury it could accumulate in the body).

Concerned about these contaminants in fish sources, small-scale, which now markets the Green Fish Oil Odyssey supplements (joined in PS.75 each) are processed from fishes caught in the Pacific waters where environmental contaminants have not yet accumulated.

Moreover, the company says it only catch these species of fish: anchovies, mackerel and philherds (sardines) since they are small and short-lived and thus not exposed to pollutants and consumed, carbon in the ocean.

The company also adds that they were able to solve the problem of the fishy odor and after taste, which is a common complaint from those who have tried similar supplements from other brands.

Green building rating system

GREEN ARCHETRENDS

Antonio de Jesus

CHILLING THE HIGHEST AMERICAN city Chicago by one degree would reportedly bring down energy costs by US$ 50 million annually. The city's one million buildings are joining the Climate Change bandwagon which believes that more than three-fourths of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

Chicago is leading American cities' green initiatives. It uses recycled building permit chips, and efficient electric buildings permits processing time for green buildings. It also gives tax incentives to green buildings.

City planning is becoming transit-oriented because no matter if you live in a green home and work in a green building, if your travel time and means of travel is worst in high air carbon emissions, your lifestyle is not sustainable.

Green cities have many buildings where the wind blows on planted rooftops, instead of heat waves bouncing on concrete roofs. Populated roofs also prevent excess storm water run-off.

Low-energy architecture abounds in green cities. Site orientation, natural ventilation and daylighting are even more concepts in building design. Use of locally sourced and environmental-friendly materials is another basic principle.

High-density living can be green if alternative clean energy transport systems are available.

Green targets

The United States has a 2008 target. It intends to reach carbon neutrality using no fossil-fuel greenhouse gas-emitting energy or operate buildings by 2020.

Europe has a 20-20-20 by 2020 target. It intends to reduce carbon emissions by 20 percent, and allow only 20 percent fossil-fuel in its total energy use by 2020.

Secretary Roberton Alvarez of the Climate Change Commission's cabinet level in then President Arroyo on April 23, 2010 proposed framework strategy and Program on Climate Change made up of 6 sectors: River Basins, Mitigation & Decarbonization, Green Buildings, Food Production Systems, Coastal Systems and Disaster Risk Reduction.

Green building rating system

How to gauge the green performance of buildings is now the subject of study in many countries.

Many times a building's actual energy use is at variance with its energy model. Therefore performance data collection is the role of the day to reduce operating costs.

Not examples in a middle-class home, if the electricity-hour energy use for the past year is 2400, divide that by, for example, 350 square meters floor area. That will give a 16 kilowatt-hour per square meter energy efficiency index which is very much within the green standard for homes, in the green city of Portland, Oregon, USA.

For commercial buildings, the green rating system is a much more complicated. In the United States, the LEED building rating system is the most popular, but there are also other building rating bodies because just in Chicago, only less than 50 buildings have been LEED-certified so far. This shows that the green building rating process is complicated and time-consuming.

A green building rating body is an independent third-party auditing, certification and standards development body for environmental and sustainability claims.

In the Philippines, we have as the face Building Council, and the Green Building Initiative rating bodies, duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Other building rating bodies may also be in the works, because of the huge number of buildings to be rated throughout the islands. Monopoly as we know is not good for the market.

For comments or inquiries, e-mail omadedejesus@gmail.com.

SW CITY North Edsa's green roof is a prime example of's green initiatives to help reduce heat buildup in an urban environment and prevent excess storm water runoff.

IT Globe parlour leaves away from the hustle and bustle of urban living.

RETREAT to the relaxing, blissful ambiance of Wind Residences.

HOME WITH A VIEW

The joys of Tagaytay living

AMY TRAVELER WHO VISITS TAGAYTAY Tagaytay may feel the lease excited at the thought of going back home to the economics of metro cities. Thankfully, one's dream of staying to live in the mountain city may now be realized, or a value that does not disappoint.

Buoyed by the market's overwhelming response to its earlier projects, SM Development Corp. offers its new six-hectare development, affording a new leisure destination in Wind Residences. The condominium development sits on a coveted address that offers an upland sanctuary to Filipino families, professionals and retirees in an accessible vacation destination.

Location is a main consideration when choosing a property investment. An hour trip from Makati, it is a different world from the hustle-and-bustle setting that urbanites have grown weary of. Most condo developments usually have no distinct identity, or scope to building but the Wind Residences of SM Development Corp. offers 20-, 26- and 32-square-meter units that provide an extensive view of the open, iconic countryside, with some units affording a perfect view of the serene beauty of Taal Lake.

Where you live in Wind Residences, you dwell amid nature that soothes the senses. Gardens and lanes within the development provide a charming escape, while the verdure, hilly terrain constantly blows fresh, cool mountain breeze. It provide our own eco and visitors a mini visual reverse, a view that has observing owners given a breathe of fresh air.

ON THE HIGH altitude of Tagaytay will emerge a condominium development called Wind Residences.

The beauty of nature outside is matched by the condominium's interiors, its grand lobbies, and spacious floor include a concierge and housekeeping services are designed to complete the value-living experience. Commercial spaces at the open ground floor enhance the leisure stay and recreational aspect unless abound with facilities like a playground, swimming pools, function halls and basketball courts, a clubhouse, and a function room. Residential units in Wind Residences may be leased according to the owner's terms and conditions.

Convenient location

Nestled on Tagaytay-Nasugbu Highway, Brgy. Silang, Tagaytay City, the 15.5-hectare development will have nine 28 level towers. The site is conveniently across Taal Vista Hotel, beside a supermarket and within proximity to a row of restaurants offering a variety of dishes. Spiritual adherents can also easily go to the Our Lady of Lourdes Church. In Wind Residences, style, value and breathtaking nature come together in an investment worth coming home to.

SM Residences, currently the country's most advanced developments of condominium homes, believes in providing first-class property options to Filipinos with diverse needs and lifestyles.

PHILIPPINE REAL ESTATE FESTIVAL

Developers offer houses, condo units at lower prices

HOUSE AND LOTS, CONDO units and other real estate properties will be available at special prices and easier terms during the 5-day special property sale in the 4th Philippine Realty Estate Festival at the World Trade Center in Pasay City from July 20 to 25.

Major real estate companies and related industries, including banks and big duty firms are participating in the 5-day sale.

All types of developments from residential, low-cost housing, medium-rise buildings to high-rise condominiums will be offered at discounted prices from key cities and reputable developers.

Among the country's top developers are San Miguel Properties, Crown Asia, Filinvest, Ayala Mexico Homes, Pri Property, DMCI, Megaworld, Robinsons Land, Century Homes, Hidden Valley Land, Brittany Corp., Rem Properties, Camella Homes, Melchor Realty, Serviceland and Blue Water.

Among the banks are BPI, Allied Bank and Metrobank and PNB.

The PREF is holding the 5-day special property sale to serve as a venue for property buyers to be apprised, gain access and buy quality realty assets at discounted prices, with local marketing support services.

Festival chair Rosemarie C. Diaz said the 4th PREF is the "biggest and most comprehensive" exhibition and forum on the latest trends in real estate and tourism development that will be held in the country this year.

She said real estate and tourism industry leaders as well as practitioners from the United States, Europe, the Philippines and other Asian countries are gathering in Manila to participate in the event.

Tourism heavyweights in the region, such as Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia, will share some of their best practices and road of projects that have helped them successfully lure foreign capital, create jobs and uplift rural communities.

The festival theme is "Global Tourism and Real Estate Development—Innovative Industries for the Philippine Economy."

Diaz said the festival aims to showcase national artistry on the growth potentials of the tourism industry as another engine of growth for the national economy.

Residential resort project exudes colonial American architecture

PREMIER PROPERTY DEVELOPER Robinsons Land Corp., under its Robinsons Communities brand, makes it easy for families to create their hardest dream come a living, breaking-ground-day reality with The Blue Coast Residences.

Located in Barangay Punta Engaño, Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu, which is few minutes from the Mactan International Airport, The Blue Coast Residences is an exclusive 3.37-hectare residential resort project facing Magellan Bay that is a real walk from world-class beach and spa resorts. Shangri-La's Mactan Resort and Spa and the Cebu Hilton Hotel.

The luxury development exudes a distinctly colonial American ambiance with a hint of hints in its overall architecture, and features a gate and guardhouse with 24/7 security, soaking pool, infinity pool, lifeguard, gazebo, administration building, multipurpose clubhouse and multi-purpose hall with a lounging deck that overlooks the infinity pool and provides a breathtaking view of the sea.

AERIAL view

Launched in late 2007, the development has since seen the completion of all roads and the property secured with a guarded gate and perimeter fence, while the resort facilities, the clubhouse and pools, and a loaded bull coast are scheduled for completion within the third quarter of the year.

"The Blue Coast Residences is a luxurious haven for investors and owners who have arrived at a rewarding period in their professional or entrepreneurial lives, and who want their families to enjoy the fruits of all their hard work in a way that is nurturing and lasting," says Rosen Inc., vice president for Sales and Marketing of Robinsons Communities.

Home away from the city

"Families can choose Blue Coast Residences to be their home away from the city without getting too far from it. It can also be their second home, a summer home for them to enjoy the sun and the sea or their own private relaxation spot that is calling a much-deserved break from the clockbinding pace of city life on those long weekends. Here, families can design not only their love for nature but, more importantly, the ties that bind them," the exec said.

The Blue Coast Residences will feature a mix of townhouses and single-detached residences. Families who want a taste of sublime resort living can choose from townhouse and "lots only" packages, the latter allowing one to freely design the owners' home that has long been conceived in his/her mind.

With countryside dev't . . .

From page B1

Indeed, Angeles City has progressed so much since its now devastation when Mount Pinatubo erupted and the United States pulled out there late in 1991.

"Those challenges have been surpassed and with the city's economy booming once more, developers like us are quick to realize the opportunities. Indeed, we have the best countryside of other cities have in Luzon should be pursued," Bautista said.

FOR SINGLES, retirees and small families, the Savannah Green Palm mill also offer affordable 2 bedroom townhouse units.

THE COLUMBIA GARDEN RESIDENCES

PR Kitchens Inc.

With rural dev't sustained, developers will come

sorrento Oasis
ORTIGAS
My patch of freshness in the city

Back in the refreshing charm of Sorrento Oasis, inspired by the quaint Italian town renowned for breathtaking sunsets and fragrant citrus groves.

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Experience a fresh take on urban living.
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Promo Mechanics:
1. Customers can enjoy up to 20% discount.
2. Promo is open to participating outlets nationwide.
3. Promo is valid on selected products.
4. Promo is valid from April 16 – July 15, 2010.

By Charles E. Bolton

ARCHITECT, URBAN and environmental planner Felino Palafox Jr. was right on target when he suggested that boosting the economic activity in other key areas of Luzon may be able to relieve Metro Manila from the "urban pressures" it currently suffers from.

He explained that Metro Manila is now a sprawling megacity and with 12 million people, it is larger than you factor in the day-worker population. Such humongous numbers of people has created demand in areas such as housing and services not to mention traffic jams, poor air quality and increasing health risks.

Palafox believes that if growth is spread to other parts of Luzon, there will be people empowerment in the countryside through the jobs that will be created and reasons of population provided and people will no longer need to go to Metro Manila.

"One of the best examples is what has happened here in Angeles City now regarded as the most urbanized in the province of Pampanga. The city has turned into a hub for business, industry, aviation and tourism as well as the metropolitan center and gaming center of Asia," said Maria Mariñas Jr., president of Pag Ibig Fort Jr., which is now developing a new community called Savannah Green Pointe.

Testament

According to Mariñas, their latest 30-hectare project located in Barangay Cutcut is a testament of how the market has improved in Angeles City.

"For decades, Angeles was known simply as the Clark US Air Force Base. But with the American pilots long gone and with the establishment of the Clark Special Economic Zone, and the opening of Diosdado Macapagal International Airport, the people have now have a more nationwide source of income, alleviating their life in the process," he related.

Of course, buying a house would be one of the priorities of the families here and Alex Villaruela, Big Rose's general assistant in the president, believes the company has the right offering for them.

"Savannah Green Pointe is less than 500 meters away from the FILAM Friendship Road and 1.2 kms from the Friendship Gate of CSEZ. Those who would need to go to Angeles City proper would only have to travel for just 10 minutes so accessibility is a problem for the residents," Villaruela said.

Bigger lots

With bigger lot sizes and variety of house models available, Villaruela believes Savannah Green Pointe will be able to serve a wide market.

"We have five models available: a 21-square-meter, 2-bedroom townhouse; a 42-sq.m. 2-bedroom single-attached bungalow (Florida); a 64-sq.m. 2-bedroom single-attached loft (Georgia); and 64-sq.m. single-attached 2-story house (Louisiana)," Villaruela enumerated, adding that with the variety of offerings, Savannah Green Pointe may appeal to a wide market ranging from cash-strapped to growing families, to single professionals and retirees.

She added that the development is set on lot measuring 12,145 sq.m. to be sold at more than 20 percent will be devoted to open spaces and amenities.

More trees

"We will ensure that there will be trees lining up the main streets, large landscaped open spaces as well as clubhouse, multipurpose hall, chapel, swimming pool and basketball court, to name a few of these amenities," Villaruela said.

Mariñas said that while Savannah Green Pointe is just one of the residential developments that will rise in the fast progressing city, the project will be a model for other developers. "We have one of the best examples of how to properly develop a community that made sure that the quality of material used and workmanship closely monitored the houses will all be within the range of most homebuyers here in Angeles or those who intend to move here."

2b LIFESTYLE
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Know your heroes (for a few months, at least)

By Ruth L. Navarro

HEROES WILL EMERGE IN the coming months, some say different colors but all will be the pride of their schools.

This year's host of the University Athletic Association of the Philippines is De La Salle University. La Salle honors the athletes by proclaiming them heroes this season '10.

These are some of the student athletes expected to bring their schools glory:

Alonzo de Mesa la Rue Eagles
Name: Eric Salonga
Age: 22
Jersey Number: 11
Position: Guard
Motto: Never quit
What makes a UAAP hero: Athletes who exude the championship and not be blinded towards.
Usual breakfast: A bowl of Boko Krunch.
Goal for the team: Third consecutive championship.
Closest friend in the team: Rich Long. We usually go out and watch the latest flicks.
Friends from another team: Deal Lee and Sally Reyes of UE. Before the games or after, we talk about our lives. The games are nothing personal.
Other sports: I was a varsity player in my grade school days in basketball.
Tell us something about your team: We play basketball in Antipolo.
If you could be any celebrity, who would you be: Didit Nicanor. I don't think I am he is leading man.
If you get broken-hearted, what would you do? Think it out until it's over.
Usual get-up: The "daddy look": shorts, sneakers and polo shirts.

University of the East Red Warriors
Name: Aldin Vincent "Nerong" Hermoso
Age: 23
Jersey Number: 6
Position: Point guard
Motto: Injuries are temporary roadblocks to success.
Mr. Save: My dad because he's been there for me even when I was still doing homework.
Usual breakfast: I don't eat breakfast. I have a heavy lunch.
Goal for the team: We want second place for you. We want to be champions this year.
Closest friend in the team: Paul Zamora because we've been in HBRS.

We're actually cooking to...(Jethro Dinglas)
Closest friend from another team: Ryan Montebano of Adamson. Serious we were teammates at San Beda high school.
Describe your team: We are a happy team. We've learned on the court but we like to joke around outside of it.
If you could be any celebrity, who would you like to be: Adam Sandler because he's good to delivering jokes.
How do you get the girl: I treat her like a princess.

Far Eastern University Tamaraws
Name: Nicole Ty "Cassandra"
Age: 22
Jersey Number: 15
Position: shooting guard
Mr. Save: My stomach because that encouraged me to play basketball.
What makes a UAAP hero: Someone who does his best for my school, we will do our best to lift the name of the FEU Tamaraws to glory.
Goal for the team: Final Four and a championship
Closest friend in the team: I have three—Ruel, Dan Vincent, Jane Krishel and Ryan Garcia. I share a room with them.

Friends from another team: UP's Magi Sison and MAPUA Reyes because I have been with them in the PBA Rookie Draft.
Other sports: I am good in bowling and I used to have golf.
If you could be any celebrity, who would you like to be: I want to be like Kobe Bryant because he didn't think about himself. He led his team to a championship.
Usual breakfast: My favorite cornsilog, eggs and rice.
What do you do when you get broken-hearted: Play PS3, throws my energies in Starbucks, coffee or I bowl.
How do you try to get the girl: I give her everything. I give her my time and attention and I don't show her my tears that she dislikes in a guy.

University of Santo Tomas Tigers
Name: Jose Tong
Age: 20
Jersey Number: 16
Position: Shooting guard
Motto: Hard work will pay off.
Who is your hero: My dad because he taught me basketball and he's a hard worker.
What makes a UAAP hero: Athletes who can unite students in cheer and be there for the school.
Usual breakfast: Three hotdogs and an egg every morning. No rice.
Goal for the team: Reach Final Four and we'll see what happens.
Friends in the team: Dix Estrada with us we are because we're really close.
Friends from another team: Gabriel Bacud of La Salle because he was my teammate in Batang.
Other sports: Table tennis and badminton.
Tell us something new about your team: We like to play pranks on the rookies. It's the same trick every year.
If you could be any celebrity, who would you like to be? Jake Gaston because he's hot.
What do you do when you get broken-hearted? I haven't been broken-hearted, yet.
Usual get-up: T-shirt, jeans and sneakers.

De La Salle University Green Archers
Name: Simon "Sy" Adams
Age: 23
Jersey number: 7 (He's been using the number since high school)
Position: Point guard/shooting guard
My Savior: My dad because he works hard to provide for us and my mom because she makes sure that everybody is taken care of.
What makes a UAAP hero: Being an effective student-you a hero already because you do a lot of sacrifices.
Usual breakfast: I don't eat breakfast but I make sure I get to eat lunch very early.
Goal for the team: Surprise people. Everybody denies us except for the La Salle community. They think we're weak. My teammates and I talked about it and we're going to get our winning condition back.
Closest friend in the team: Arabes Webb. I like his humor. He really loves the game.
Closest friend from another team: Martin Reyes of UE. We've been friends since high school. We can considered part of his family.
Other sports: I really like sports. If play football, baseball, cricket, tennis, badminton, I'll want to try eated martial arts but I can't do it now.
Your hero unrelated to: Playing Counter Strike. I'm trademark a favorable we're arts.
Celebrity he looks up to: Manny Pacquiao. I remember watching his first fight where he lost. He was this close. Then he's all married and stuff now, known calm and steady for his skills.
What do you do when you're broken-hearted: I eat Oreo cookies and disappear at Market! Market.

Adamson University Falcons
Name: Jerick Taborda
Age: 22
Jersey Number: 6
Position: Point guard
Motto: Try and try until you succeed.
What makes a UAAP hero? A role model beyond the basketball court
Usual breakfast: Hotdog, egg, rice
Goal for the team: We're the only team who could defeat ourselves. We're going to work to get to the Final Four.
Closest friend in the team: Jan Colina because he's also from Cebu and Lester Alvarez.
Other sports: I was a triathlete champion in Don Bosco Cebu before.
If you could be any celebrity, who would you like to be? Didit Pinit because he's one of the best point guards in NBA.
How do you get the girl? I try to win her with my smile.

www.u

Cool looks for school and some style tricks

From plaid button-downs to burnout fabrics, take your pick!

Layered to please

With the rise of layered fashion, tanktops, sweet fashion jackets and light knits to name three clothes. The key to being able to layer is confidence.

You can simply wear to layer say a cardigan over a tee and a miniskirt T-shirt.

COOL. STARTED just a few weeks ago, and you might be looking I'm a cool place to hang out, study, meet up with friends, or just to pass the time.

Trilogy is one of the hippest places in the metro. It's not just a clothing boutique, you can also dine in its cafe called "Canteen."

It offers a wide range of products for both men and women, from T-shirts to dresses, denims, sneakers, boots, and accessories, and even home-interior and books!

Among the brands spotted in the store are Australian brand Insight, DJ Steve Aoki's Dim Mak, local brand I Love You, street-inspired brand Obey, and alternative Apparel and Trans from Los Angeles.

If you're looking for tips on how to spruce up a trend, they're here.

Burnout fabrics

Burnout tops are perfect for our country's humid temperature because it's very light and breathable. You can try layering this trend with thin tank tops underneath and match it up with long necklaces and piles of bags.

Little white dress

It's good to have the classic little black dress but it's good to break out from the norm and wear white. Infinity dresses look cute with leggings and young shoppers. Complement the look by adding a statement necklace and funky glossy heels.

Plaid button-downs

Plaid is one of the classic trends that everyone must keep in their closet. You can team your boyfriend T-shirt and jeans combo into a fashionable look by layering it over your T-shirt. You can also just wear it buttoned-down, with jeans and sneakers.

Graphic prints

Graphic tees are all about statements. It makes the laidback look of t-shirt jeans go to a whole new level. It's easy to play with. Just add on a vest or a cool jacket and sneakers. It's a must-have in your closet.

Canvas bags

It's 2010. Today the rise of environmental consciousness is higher than ever. You can feel guilty to part of the movement by carrying around a cute canvas tote. From dumping anything from your shoes to your books, it's a simple act of doing your part to saving the planet.

Make me a *mixtape*

'You gotta kick off with a killer, to grab attention'

MAKE your own mix soundtrack.

By Sunshine Reyes
Contributor

THE FIRST MIXTAPE I EVER made was for myself. I was at a friend's house, mesmerized with his massive CD collection, pulling out random discs and recording songs on a cassette tape until I ran out of space.

Now that tape is full of fun, telling us a few together with all the mixes I've received through the years. Most of them no longer work, eaten up by mold, time and (possibly) bad memories.

Some of the track lists were haphazardly written on notepaper, while others were decorated with cutouts and illustrations.

Mixtapes are nothing but a collection of songs, so why do I still keep them? My mom wants to know the same thing—she could use the box for something else, she says.

I can blame it on nostalgia, but besides that, I know that making mixes is a heartfelt effort that makes time and requires creativity.

Life's soundtrack

People have different reasons for making them: to preserve memories, provide a soundtrack for trips, swap with friends to discover new tracks, express a general feeling or drop hints to the recipient. (A love interest, maybe?)

There are also some whose only check is their off-beat "obscure" preferences and eclectic tastes. And there those are others who simply need to share.

Back in the good ol' days of cassette tapes, if you a challenge to make everything fit to 60 or 120 minutes, gap between songs included. There were too many good songs!

Now, everything is easier with apps and file-hosting sites, which explains the prominence of downloadable mixes online. By posting it on blogs and social networking sites, it's easier to find new music for free (in the hopes of rewarding your passion and labels, but that's another story) and new friends to connect with.

"Now, the making of a good compilation tape is a very subtle art. Rules don't and don'ts. First of all, you're using someone else's poetry to express how you feel. This is a delicious thing," says Josh Gordon, Johnny Gosadee's multitalent character in the movie "High Fidelity."

"You gotta kick off with a killer, to grab attention. Then you gotta take it up a notch, but you don't wanna blow your load, so then you gotta cool it off a notch. There are a lot of rules," his character says.

Ah, rules. Some classic (not classic of a viewer, go through your music library to select a list of songs that would fit, and listen to them, eliminating those you don't like as you go.

Easy, eh? The key is to have fun while keeping the songs relevant to the theme. If you feel like following up Bieber's with Barry Manilow, go ahead!

Sound mix

✦ Do you want to make a downloadable mix? Do it like most people do nowadays: compile songs in a folder, zip them up, upload the file to a file-hosting provider, and share the link with your friends.

✦ If you have an existing playlist in your iTunes, you can upload it to Art of the Mix (http://artofthemix.org). To make non-downloadable mixes that your friends can still listen to (like an Internet radio), try 8tracks (http://8tracks.com).

✦ Old-school route? Make real CDs. This option also allows you to get creative with the CD inserts, sleeves and envelopes.

✦ For your reference, check out books like Rob Sheffield's "Love is a Mixtape," and film like also "High Fidelity," the "High Fidelity" movie, and website Cassette from my Ex (http://cassettefromexes.com).

MUSIC playlist with vintage songs of Bob Dylan and John Lennon.

TAPE among songs for your ex

I have never seen girls as competitive and as shoe-hungry; I was trying on a pair of heels when someone grabbed the other shoe to check if it was her size

By Kara Vitug Gangan
Student contributor
Ateneo de Manila University

THE SCENES OF REGULAR were straight out of the movie "Confessions of a Shopaholic": people were pushing and shoving, giving each other cold stares, and trying to get their dibs at certain clothing items.

This was the scene at SM Megamall when Forever21 opened, with thousands of Metro Manila's fashion lovers on the hunt for today's hottest clothing and accessories, and everything in between, because of the globe's most talked-about store.

The announcement of Forever21 hitting Philippine shores was a hit in the blogosphere. It has even become a trending topic on Twitter. The excitement was so high that a week before its opening, pictures of its 2700 sq.m. retail space and their fantastic offerings were leaked. Among fashion-philes from far and near says, and making those in the provinces wish they were in town for the event.

The hours says that the first 200 shoppers were to receive a cash voucher worth P200, thus explaining the long queue of about 200 girls, and some boys too, outside the store even before the mall's 10 a.m. opening.

One got the impression, after seeing store signs and excited shoppers joining the frenzied mobs camping outside the mall for a store opening event, we had an idea.

Shopping animals

I have been to Forever21 branches on the US and in Bangkok, but my experience at in Manila were definitely tops my list. I have never seen girls as competitive and as shoe-hungry; I was trying on a pair of heels when someone grabbed the other shoe to check if it was her size, just sending the fact that I was just in front of her.

There were also a lot of complaints about fellow shoppers who would rudely switch items from the hands of other shoppers to bump other people just to get to the items, and then there are those who would take fourth inside the dressing room because they were taking mini mirror pictures of themselves.

"I loved the variety of clothes and accessories, from pretty clothes to classy dresses to vintage rags, they have it all," exclaimed Shida Limbo, confessed "fit-throughout Manila Limbo, confessed "fit-throughout Manila fashionista who was one of the first in line. She added, "It was worth lining up for very early because the excitement of other shoppers is contagious!"

The hype were not to be spared by Forever21's branding as with fresh freshmen, a college junior also from Ateneo, is looking forward to "shopping for fashionable clothes on sites to school and veg functions. I will go the store's run soon, maybe after the hype has died down."

With girls going gaga over clothes and accessories for as low as P150, and cute candy designs similar to those from necessary shows, Forever21 is a shoe-hungry fashionista's carwet haven. Just so much as shopping for new clothes and finding treasures that are within our budget range. One unfortunate is that practicing coolness courtesy to other people even in shopping is itself fashionable and chess.

SPOTTED

Kaira Mariae, UPAF
"She's such a big girl!!! Super IT! Sooooo in love! Cute accessories seeing anything Mariae did the awesome experience in all in!"

Stephanie Concepcion, UPAF
"SUPER BIG. so many things to buy I was that the pieces are up to date and very trendy."

Trendsetters, Ateneo
"I mostly just love the trendy mannequins. Kinda thought-provoking, isn't it? Well, obviously not for..."

Tina Ayala, 24 & Gulo
"Awesome to get close to [unintelligible] [unintelligible] and [unintelligible] [unintelligible] [unintelligible]

Know your heroes (for a few months, at least)

from page 21

University of the Philippines Fighting Maroons

Name: Gherie "Khara" Reyes
Age: 22
Jersey number: 9
Position: Shooting guard
Ate Khara: My idol because he taught me everything from basketball to raising a family. She's my role model.
What makes a UAAP hero: Someone who's not just good on the court but a great, even all individual as well. He knows how to cheer others with respect.
Usual breakfast: Fried eggs, spam and rice

How good for the team: Fourth Best Asst. The last time I got to experienced that was when I was in high school in La Salle-Zobel. I want my teammates to experience what it's like.
Closest friends in the team: Woody Co and Miggy Maningo. During off-season, we do sleepovers, it's like we're still in high school. (laughs)
Closest friend from another team: Simon Atkins. We go way back.
Other sports: I like to play Frisbee
Your most unusual hobby: Playing computer games. It's a cheap way of getting together.
If I got the girl by: Using lines from a song. I once used "Is it okay to call you mine?" to a girl.
National University Bulldogs
Position: Reinforced "Senior" Player
Age: 35
Jersey Number: 34 (His girlfriend's choice)
Position: Center
He Says: My mom became the main the guy that I am now.
What makes a UAAP hero?: When you fight for your school with your heart
Usual breakfast: Milk, Nutella spread, toast bread
Closest friend in the team: Joseph Yeo because he always helps me on the court. We train/skate well and he talks to me a lot.
Friend from another team: Philip Paredes of La Salle. We'll like to be Angeleno because I want Right Said Jose pic
What do you do when you get dread an Asian?: I don't get one. I don't talk to other people and I try win back my girlfriend

EMMANUEL Pliz, JB Canuday, Jerich Calinda

Hoop Dreams: The 2bu! UAAP Season 73 Preview

Which teams will make the Final Four? And which will come away frustrated again?

By Adrian M. Dy
Contributor

2bu?'s fearless forecast:

1 #1 The Far Eastern University Tamaraws

Key Loss: Mark Barroca
Key Returns: Aldrech Ramos, Raul Cervantes, JR Canuday, Richiard Escueta
Key Recruits: Terrence Romeo, Mark Borgue
The most complete team, on paper, in FEU. It's easy to see why. After stumbling and dragging down their points guard Mark Barroca to the point where he left the team in the middle of the season, then, rookie SR Garcia stepped confidently up to the plate, and the team has been better for it.
They're back, with no other significant subtraction in value at the last year of their coach, Glenn Capacio. They're motivated.
FEU has a daunting four-man rotation, with last year's MVP runner-up Aldrech Ramos, Raul Cervantes, Pipo Saavedra and Mark Borgue, brother to Kevin. That quartet will pound the boards like crazy offering up a load of second-chance opportunities while keeping their opponents the same. That's good news for their shooters, particularly Garcia, who has the green light in the zone; JR Canuday, and PEJ POON product Terrence Romeo, who owns the 3rd most round for scoring, with 92 points.
It remains to be seen, however, if they can operate within the newly installed 3's single offense and more importantly avoid another off-court distraction.

2 #2 The Ateneo De Manila University Blue Eagles

Key Losses: Ateneo Blue Eagles
Key Returns: Aji Reyes, Rabeh Al-Hussaini, Nonoy Baclao
Key Newcomer: Eric Salamat, Nico Salva, Ryan Buenafe, Kirk Long
Key Departure: JP Erram, Jason Ballesteros, Ateneo Coach Bo Perasol
The champions of the past two seasons, Ateneo could still brag a Dalal-esque repetition title. But the current Blue Eagles team isn't the kind you want to defend the crown. The absence of big men Al-Hussaini and Baclao leaves a giant hole in the middle, even with talented coach Norman Black. The team will be forced to platoon the center and power forward positions with a host of Team B call-ups, hit players and rookies.
The squad has a lot of growing up to do, as future role players will have to adjust to having to play longer minutes.
Expect the bulk of the team's scoring to come from Nico Salva, now an entrenched starter, and newly crowned King Eagle Eric Salamat, and the in-shape Ryan Buenafe.
Offensive wise, the team should be just fine, but the trademark defense will be the big question. Can the team survive without an established shot blocker? Will they be forced to gamble for the steal? Or will they be counting down the days to next season, when star recruit Greg Slaughter and high school phenom Kiefer Ravena suit up?

3 #3 The Adamson University Soaring Falcons

Key Loss: Leo Canaday
Key Returns: Lanny Alvarez, Jerick Canada, Jun Collina, Alex Nuyles
Key Recruits: Justin Manjeza, William Stamers
Last season, the falcons were perpetually unlucky losing five games by four or less points, when just one more win would have gotten them into the Final Four. This year, the team has added the shot on a pair of foreign players, big man Austin Stamers and do-it-all forward William Manjeza. Both are bigger and more talented than anyone's been before, an interior post player they can throw the ball to down low and a point forward, respectively.
However, if the preseason is any indication, it'll be the ones who are already in the squad who will turn around the Falcons' late-game execution. Expect Alex Nuyles, a shifty scorer, Jun Canonio, an inverter defender with a mid-range jumper, and sharpshooter RR Cabanos to play more minutes for coach Leo Austria, and just maybe bring the Falcons back to postseason action.

4 #4 The University of the Philippines Fighting Maroons

Key Losses: Arnie Bengzon, Migz Ibi Ayo, Mike Gamboa
Key Returns: Magi Sison, Timothy Co, Ilan Olivarez, Alvin Padilla, Mikee Reyes
Key Newcomer: Joshua Sawit, Jess Manuel, Mike Silongan
It not sure, when? That's the question on the minds of the UP faithful, in the case of their team. Timothy Co, Magi Sison and Ilan Reyes, are all on their last year, don't think the team doesn't know it though. The Maroons added big-time source Mike Silongan, a UE-Ass product, to give the squad more offense, and rookie Joshua Sawit to get the ball in their scorers.
Neither move, however, addresses the squad's Achilles heel, interior defense. It has been said of big man Magie Sison, that he has made the leap, thanks to his nine units the smart folks team, but that's been said before.
More telling is the fact that those behind him, rookie Jess Manuel and forget Evan Gallinez, are untested, unproven commodities in that position. If coach Bong Castro doesn't get the team to live up to its name, he may find himself leaving along with the above trio of graduates.

5 The University of the East Red Warriors

Key Losses: Ted Arena, Paul Lingue, Elmer Espiritu
Key Returns: Brad Lee, Sally Reyes, Dave Zaldua, Jaime Martinez
Key Recruits: Gary Ramos, Ash Ramos, Bill Barroga
Anytime a team loses its entire front court, that's a huge problem. Add the fact that their two key big men, Elmer Espiritu and Paul Lingue, averaged 30+ minutes each and the rookie replacements for them are more than green ends, and it becomes clear that last season's runner up will live or die by Brad Lee.
All is not lost, however, as the Warriors have Jaime Martinez back from an ACL injury, and Sally Reyes to provide more artillery.
There's also the wrinkle chance that someone like Ken Arthur or John Alabanza will flutter under the watchful eye of Olympian's Ricky Dandan's coaching offense. In the end, however, games will be won or lost based on whether or not Lee goes out of his mind. Hopefully for the Warriors, that'll be what he does.

6 #6 The De La Salle University Green Archers

Key Losses: James Mangahas, PJ Ramos, Ralfel Maladies, Rich Go, Arvie Bringas
Key Returns: Simon Atkins, Prince Orizu, Sam Mamuyac, Yeshin Mondonedo, Joshua Webb
Key Recruits: Almond Vosotros, Theo Eboña, Jordan Tampus
When all this come to the UAAP are sipping and getting table, the four school (ULSA) is sagging and heading up on points. Although admittedly, the loss of Arvie Bringas and the one-year delay for standout San Beda's off-court problems).
Coach Blaise Fernandez takes over his brother's position, and such has comes a renewed focus on the dreaded press. But strategy and part necessary the Archers will often be the smaller team on the court, and so transition has been will be key.
That said, La Salle will bank on production by two non-graduating Thi-Sist. Joshua Webb, a sopho-

more to have James Martinez back from an ACL injury, and Raffy Reyes to provide more artillery.
There's also the wrinkle chance that someone like Ken Arthur or John Alabanza will flutter under the watchful eye of Olympian's Ricky Dandan's coaching offense. In the end, however, games will be won or lost based on whether or not Lee goes out of his mind. Hopefully for the Warriors, that'll be what he does.

7 #7 The National University Bulldogs

Key Loss: Michael Ley
Key Returns: Marvin Rabeton, Kukoy Hermosisima, Jewel Ponteras, Nigel Singh, Joseph Yeo
Key Recruits: Jeoffrey Javillonar, Glenn Khobuntin, Emmanuel Mbe, Ivan Ludovica
The Bulldogs are now a force to reckon with, and are aspiring to make it in Final Four, where they haven't made an appearance since the 2000-2002 season.
In previous seasons, NU had a lone big man who had to drag his way through double teams. This year, it's the opposite with Marvin Rabeton and Jewel Ponteras being joined by the 6'8" Glenn Khobuntin, and the 6'7" Emmanuel Mbe. They'll open up the floor for

shooters Ajuet Singh and Kukoy Hermosisima, forming a potent inside-out combo.
Where the Bulldogs are still weak is in the point guard position. Now, veteran Michael Ley would never be tagged as an all-star, but Joseph Yeso and Jeoffrey Javillonar aren't any better. This leaves the door wide open for free Ludovica to play point guard's role, a duty he's done really. But if the Bulldogs can't find anyone to carry the ball around, all that size will be for naught.

8 #8 The University of Santo Tomas Growling Tigers

Key Losses: Dylan Madrona, Rhasim Mirza, Alvin Mallari
Key Returns: Jerie Tiang, Clark Bautista, Jeric Fortuna, Chris Ostrea
Key Recruits: Vince Tiano, Paolo Pe, Rinchi
It was a heck of a story last season, when the Jerry Cruz-led Growling Tigers ran and gunned their way into the Final Four with a Cinderella-influenced style of play.
The odds are against them now, as they try to repeat that feat. Where last year they had height and shooting in Rhasim Mirza and Dylan Madrona, all they have now is a rookie of guards, including last season's Rookie of the Year, Jeric Fortuna.
The Tigers were able to recruit some high school big men though—Mcnara's Paolo Pe and St. Jude's Rinh Lo—but they're are so big in the collegiate leagues. They do have 6'7" Vince Tiano, but he's nowhere near as polished as Cruz to lead his Final Four.
In second coach Jarencio must give his drawers room to operate without a low post threat, or find another tomorrow. Cruz offensive scheme. Otherwise, the Tigers will find themselves at the bottom of the heap, just a few seasons removed from being on top of the UAAP world.

Be led about LED

Full HD doesn't always mean Full LED. LED technology has two types, Edge and Full. Full (right) uses LEDs all over the screen, unlike that of in Edge type (Left). This gives enhance picture quality, clear and flawless images unattainable by Edge type LED TVs.

Recently, LG launches the world's first Full LED 3D TV called LW5500, which delivers a picture of outstanding clarity and brightness on LG's innovative INFINIA design. Illuminated by 1,300 LEDs (on the 55-inch model) directly behind the screen, LW5500 delivers images of exceptional brightness and clarity. LW5500's picture is unrivaled among conventional LED TVs.

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From Bangladesh to the Philippines, students vie for the best entrepreneur award

'This is a good platform for learning and exposing our young people to entrepreneurship'—Willie Tham, CEO, HSBC Thailand

By Siel Cabal

WHILE MOST youngsters squander their time in malls or on video games and the Internet, students at HSBC Young Entrepreneur Awards regional finals in Malaysia tried to think of innovative business ideas, in the hope perhaps that they would be the next Bill Gates.

Sreenivas Rahman, 22, a business administration graduate from the University of Dhaka in Bangladesh, wants to be an entrepreneur.

With his teammates Sabeha Islam and Sifat Kaosar, he took a five-hour flight to Malaysia to represent Bangladesh in the grueling competition.

HSBC YEA is the most prestigious annual business plan writing competition. The Bangladesh team battled over 400 teams in the local YEA, securing a spot for the regionals finals, where they got to travel to Malaysia to compete with teams from other countries and to enjoy a week long celebration of Iduk.

Shit has been challenging young minds to create a commercially viable business for over a decade now. It aims to cultivate the young's interest in entrepreneurship. It started in HK, but is now held consecutively in five other countries—Bangladesh, Brunei, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand.

Still ecstatic over their business presentation before the panel of judges, Rahman says, "It's amazing enough that we've been. This is a good platform for students and the graduates to get a feel of the 'real' business world."

Rahman's group conceived Biotus, their solution to soil degradation which has been the concern of farmers. It is said to be an anti-leaching, eco-friendly, carbon-negative solution that helps enhance good yields with a minimum use of fertilizers.

For Rahman's teammate Sreenivas, who is raised of public speaking, this event was a milestone. "This is where I got rid of my fear," she says. "It also gave me ready for the real people outside. Just to be here is an honor."

Team Philippines

Rodolfo Ang, the dean of the John Gokongwei School of Management at Ateneo de Manila University, went out of his way to support the Philippine "Delta Eco" team composed of recent graduates from Ateneo—Wylie Dela and Mario Isobelo Lucenzano.

Up until noon, Ang narrates, he was still helping the team practice their answers and

MORE B2

HONG KONG exec exec/Receiving the prize from HSBC's Ms Maldrine Meneses (middle), students Zikrang Eric and Russel Perwani

ATENEO students Ryel Cua, Jaiker Tan, Jeremy Pe, HSBC's Cel Avelino, Deka Bautista's Wylie Dela and Ice Lucenzano, HSBC's Johanna Garcia, Ric Ismag, Lloyd Benicarlo and Reyce Cardenas

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Babies get Fun Day this Sunday!
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DICK TRACY

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JAMES BOND

DIVINE COMEDY

BABY BLUES

TULDOK

SEN

KIKO MACHINE

SHERMAN'S LAGOON

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

POISSON FISH (Feb 20 to March 20) You should understand more determination and ambition than you usually do. Your natural charm will help you get what you want. Although you may be tempted to take shortcuts, you will not benefit from your actions unless you do it the right way. Don't be afraid to ask for help. You appreciate who you are.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You're a good one to mention to home. Authoritative now for you and love. Family members may be more understanding. Short-sighted people might not see something today.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Good feelings abound with personal matters. Others appreciate your efforts. Don't be afraid to be funny. You're happy to let others relax. You appreciate who you are.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You're an excellent one for hard work and endurance. Don't be discouraged by others. Believe in your financial savvy. Romance and excitement are heaven. A long lunch with a friend is a good idea.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) It's easy to be cautiously lucky because you're feeling fortunate in relationships. Others might jump on your bandwagon.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Today, it's easy to appreciate yourself, and people around you love. This is important. Your accomplishments should be more than offered to enjoy and relish.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Your confidence will be low today. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Others will be more than happy to help you. Your self-esteem will be low. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Others will be more than happy to help you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You're going to be electrically charged today. Your energy is high, and people around you will benefit. Why not set it up for the Pagpuntos Ano? Exercise caution!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Your plans are exciting to others. Others come to you for help. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Others will be more than happy to help you. Your self-esteem will be low. Don't be afraid to ask for help.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Today, you're more down-to-earth. You prefer to be practical today. Approaching people and business in a practical way. You're

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Conversations with partners, friends, and colleagues are important today. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Others will be more than happy to help you. Your self-esteem will be low. Don't be afraid to ask for help.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 19) Others will be more than happy to help you. Your self-esteem will be low. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Others will be more than happy to help you. Your self-esteem will be low.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) You're in a wonderful mood today. Be the one to start conversations. Enjoy connecting with others. You're feeling fortunate. Others will be more than happy to help you. Your self-esteem will be low. Don't be afraid to ask for help.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more puzzles and programs, visit www.sudoku.com

Conceptis Sudoku

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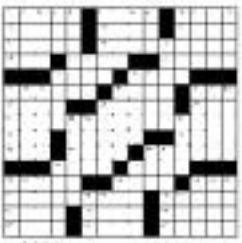
			5		2			
		2		6		1		
	9						7	
8		7				9		5
	6						4	
		9		4		5		
			8		7			
		5		3		2		

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Fashion file

Their style is anything but random; accessorizing completes their look

Countdown to the last 'Clues'

Books 8 and 9 of 'The 39 Clues' alternately set readers up and surprises them

Book review

By Rael S. De Vera

NOW THAT THE END IS ALmost here, "The 39 Clues"—Scholastic's daring mix of book, card and website, written by a cast of young adult fiction stars —starts getting serious.

After the series introduced the protagonists in 2008, the middle books slowed down in a lot of time was spent exploring the world of the Cahills, the seven family that has controlled the globe for centuries.

"The 39 Clues Book 8: The Emperor's Code" by Gordon Korman (Scholastic, New York, 2010, 180 pages) reintroduces readers to 14-year-old Amy and 12-year-old Dan, who have eschewed millions of dollars out of loyalty to their dead great aunt in order to find a mysterious formula which will make them kings among men—if they can find all the clues and survive their educating relatives.

Nuanced portrait

After the shocking revelation that Amy and Dan actually belonged to the much-feared Madrigals and not to any one of the four known Cahill clans (Lucian, Tomas, Janus and Ekat), the siblings, together with cousin Nellie and Saladin the cat, find themselves in the Portland area to find the clue established by their relatives. Papa, horror known as the last Tomas (another addition to the real-world gossip belonging to the Cahill family tree).

Along the way, we get wider the idea of the vast interests of the current Cahill generation, engineering malice from the winning Palmerston team, composed of himself, fellow student Kunal Persaud, 3rd year stunning graduate student Jake Thao Phix, who couldn't make it to the competition, as he was already studying at Cambridge University.

"The standard of entry was so thin," said Persaud, a FIE citizen whose roots can be traced to Thao Phix, who couldn't make it to the competition, as he was already studying at Cambridge University.

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"I thought everyone who presented were phenomenal and they had brilliant ideas. We all had different strengths, and we were confident with our ideas because we put in so many hours and work for the whole year," Persaud also represents FIE in cricket.

Winning proposal

The "Fish" was the winning business proposal. It was based on a seemingly method involving the use of "bioimpetrin" fish. It aimed to make the entire sourcing process more economical and efficient for products such as food, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics.

"If you have a dynamic story to tell, get to write it, right from the bottom of your heart. If you want it, you got to be able to persevere and be passionate about it all the way," said Persaud. "There are too many hurdles in a business, and those that can handle the best to the kitchen, succeed."

"Have a vision and don't settle for that idea, or just can establish a platform," said Persaud's teammate Chen Zhiming Eric, whose role mostly involved science.

"Just being part of this competition and representing their country already make the students delegate winners, from their perspective.

Now in Malaysia, I have been introduced to the brightest and the best of the best. This is the kind of intelligent context that we large other big corporation can pick up on. One can only begin to imagine, as Mr. Hussain said in his closing remarks, addressed to the young delegates, "You have all the power, and to be the next BIG Satria, Congratulations!"

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From Bangladesh to the Philippines ...

From page D1

spark. After all, the Philippines is the defending champion so the pressure is indeed real there.

"Sun Plus" was the women's business idea. It is a range of sun-tool bearing, water-resistant flooring, which has an breathable qualities and versatile design.

The product has a social responsibility component since thirteen's program encourages its students to create a business model that will make a difference in society.

For Ang, she talked to always expect to join YEA because it gives them a chance to compete not only with other local schools, but also with those from other countries. A big bulk of students teams joining YEA come from stores, with UE in Manila and VMAU in strong contenders.

"This is the only way the Philippines will improve," Ms Ang says. "To be the best in the Philippines is good, but to be the best in the world is something else. You have to compete globally! So we always try to encourage our students to go out and learn. It gives us a new sense of what is going on out there. That we might not have known ... but should really look outside of the Philippines."

Commercially viable

With the quite high standards of YEA, the judges agreed that all the participants did quite well with their business ideas. They were very brilliant in all the presentation. The clarity of drinking, and how they presented their young ideas is quite inspiring," said Paul Norton, the chief risk officer of HSBC Bank Malaysia.

The judges were looking for commercial viability and practical. "The quality that will make the winning team stand out is the clear distinction and understanding in commercial aspect. And how well they articulates their creative idea," said Willie Thain, HSBC Thailand's CEO and one of the judges. "This is a good platform for learning and exposing our young people to entrepreneurship."

"I can only emphasize the judges' comments on the sheer quality of young talent we are seeing in this competition. Remember, we are seeing the best of the best today!" said Mukhtar Hussain, deputy chairman and CEO of HSBC Bank Malaysia Berhad and global CEO of HSBC Islamic.

"Hopefully what this process does is to give confidence to the young, and to develop innovative ideas. Hopefully those ideas will find commercial reality."

Hussain advised young entrepreneurs in Asia. "You should consider yourself very fortunate. You are part of the world where we have growth and the rest of the world is behind. Imagine by this."

Best of the rest

At the end of the competition, the Philippine team came close to winning HSBC's young entrepreneur award, taking home the Jade Award and a cash exhequence fund of HK$10,000.

Bangladesh won the Diamond Award and a self-development fund of HK$20,000. The students from the City University of Hongkong won the Platinum Best of the Best Award, bringing home the grimmest prize money.

"I think the process of the competition is more important than the result, we learned a lot! Especially on how to improve ourselves," explained Chen Zhiming Eric, third year

ATENEO students enjoying the tour. Jessica Po, Julius Tan, Rajo Cua.

BANGLADESH team Suzaida Rahman, Saleha Islam, Sifat Sarwar.

THE PHILIPPINE team wins the Jade Award. Wylie Dass and Ina Lacsamana with HSBC's Johanna Garcia (far left) and Cue Avelino (far right).

DOUZI team of Thailand

ARANETA CENTER'S LAPTOP-ALOOZA PROMO RETURNS

THE SCUBED STYLISTA CHALLENGE AT SM

The street is the stage for the Scubed Men's Accessory Line at SM, and the spotlight was on the brand during the recent styling challenge held at the SM Department Store in SM Megamall.

Designed for the experimental, confident, and active teen, Scubed rocks with attitude and trendsetting fun. And with The Myx VJ contestants taking part, the challenge hosted by VJ Bianca had a music video mood.

The festive contestants were divided into two teams – each with a guy and a girl. Each team – with the girls choosing accessories for their partner –was given 30 minutes to go around the SCUBED area to choose P2,000 worth of accessories for that VJ cool look. The winning pair, which will be announced on July 21, Finals Night of MYX VJ Search, will receive a shopping spree of P5,000 and makeover from SCUBED. Here's how much fun they had in the challenge.

The SCUBED area at the Men's Accessories department located at the Ground Floor of SM Department Store in SM Megamall.

TEAM MARCO AND ISSA: LESS IS MORE

Marco (M.T.D.) from Pasay de Salle dazzled us fashionably as eclectic, enticing persistent tough looks. It was a big challenge for her to pick the perfect accessories for Marco. Marco, a Psychology major and an international relations minor, loves experience shirts, jeans, and basketball shoes.

SHE SAYS: I chose accessories that he could wear and mostly for parties instead of formal outings. I like his overall look because he goes with his shirt, he's like hip hop, which he really likes! His watch and the black leather belt. These are all simple yet very functional accessories that he could wear no matter the occasion.

HE SAYS: "I did do an excellent job. She knows that I am simple and love primarily for comfort. She did bring a wristband because whenever I am not the type of one of accessories. My favorite accessory that she chose is the high –7 wave coordinated with my shirt and very comfortable, accurate and complex, stylish, and very classic looking.

MARCO'S SCUBED STYLE - P1,348.50

Team Marco and Issa

Black sling bag, P949.75

Black rubber wristwatch, P499.75

Plaid cap, P 191.75

Black leather belt, P299.75

Tee or Shorts or both by Issa, MARCO'S SCUBED STYLE - P1,349.00

TEAM JOSH AND KIRSTEN: HIPHOP COOL

They come from traditionally rival schools, but Josh Castañas, an Ateneo de Manila University Management student, and Kirsten Pilos, a De La Salle University-Dasmariñas graduate, teamed up for a stunning SCUBED look.

SHE SAYS: "I made Kirsten, Josh's hiphop style, and chose simple accessories that goes him the look – the cap, the bag, the sunnies, leather cuffs, and walled chains."

HE SAYS: "Kirsten was able to capture my rocker side of style and I like especially with the walled chains. That's so cool.

JOSH'S SCUBED STYLE - P 1,116.00

Team Josh and Kirsten

Silver wallet chain, grey, P 149.75 and up P229.75

Yellow garter socks, P179.75

Plaid cap - P 174.75

Black and Greens leather cuffs, Ateneo, P79.75 Black - P79.75 grey black, P149.75

TEAM TON AND ANJ: THE ROCKER IN HIM

Ton Uy, a BS Manage-ment and Economics Systems Student at the Ateneo de Manila University, says her fashion style depends on her mood – she can go girly or edgy. Just like in the SCUBED Challenge, she brought out the rocker in her partner, Ton Vergara de Dios, a Economics student also at the Ateneo University.

SHE SAYS: "Ton has a rocker image, so I simply chose accessories that wouldn't be too much and personality. I thought the black accessories with silver studs would perfect for him, and I hoped he'd like it."

HE SAYS: Aside my look-driven, I like functionality and jeans, when they have a different accessory. The key she chose is my favorite, since I usually carry a bag around for my stuff as well as guitar picks so since I play I'd it hold it."

TON'S SCUBED STYLE - P 1,215.25

Team Ton and Anj

Black cap with silver studs, P349.75

Silver wallet chain, P299.75

Black leather cuffs, P149.75

Black leather belt, P299.75

Look no further, P79.75

Any accessories you like to complete the look from Scubed look, S SCUBED STYLE - P 1,070.25

TEAM ROBIN AND CHRISTINE: YOU'VE GOT TO PULL IT OFF

Christine Hernandez, who works in the Human Resources Department of Shell Companies, is actress girl who combines she-ness only 3 points of passion her closet. But as Robin says, opposites attract and she did a great job channeling the edgy style of Robin Mariano, who works for ABS-CBN as a business composing and emerging technologies.

SHE SAYS: Robin's look is out-spoken. I wanted him to look different a nice way, so I got those pieces that would complement his look – like the bracelet to match his purple shirt. I thought he looked like super handsome in those clothes. It really made him look more!

HE SAYS: "There were three things that Nina picked out that I liked – one was the scarf which we discovered my head. I thought it helps very, since Nina's and Nina Jan. I also liked the complexion – glasses and we don't go to cool together, but sometimes that one from Scubed is cooler. The bracelet was the purple belt, which looked really good on my wrist. I liked the watch as styling, too."

ROBIN'S SCUBED STYLE - P1,169.50

Team Rob and Christine

The Spiral bracelet look by Christine, S SCUBED STYLE - P1,168.00

Black stripe sling bag, P949.75

Purple belt, plain P149.75 narrow P249.75

Silver framed wristwatch, P349.75

TEAM ANDREW AND JULZ: HIP AND URBAN

Julz Sarmiento, a creative writing Student at the Ateneo de Manila University says she has a unique guitar heart, and she likes high waist jeans, dolls shoes, and 50s inspired clothes. In choosing the accessories for her partner, Andrew, who is into events and TV hosting, she took a casual but stylish look, cool, and bold, which she thought was perfect for him.

He Says: "I wanted to show Andy's personality, which is very relaxed urban. Andy likes to wear, that's why I gave him cool sun's glasses, and a black sling bag, which are very functional for him."

He Says: "I was always worrying about the scarves look, but always felt I would look strange more, but, however, decided, and when I looked in the mirror – the end only captured my look... but also helped me discover another side of me. I also loved the sneakers – I think it's a genius one."

ANDREW'S SCUBED STYLE - P 1,668.00

Team Andy and Julz

Ring pendant necklace, P99.75

Black canvas bracelet, P99.75

Cool sneakers - P329.75

Brown leather belt, P79.75 each

The jet-setter look by Julz, S SCUBED STYLE - P 1,668.50

TEAM DANE AND KAT: ROCKER MEETS FASHIONISTA

Kat Rose, a BS MIS Statistics who Graduate of Saint Benilde is fun loving fashionista and who combines her look as girly, sexy, and dreamy stepping. Her partner Dane Reguiro, a Polytechnic University says styling for him is how people celebrates themselves. From the engineer, this works its how you want yourself to be seen by others people and bypasses of what is cool in reality you decide to. For this next pair, that make it work, and here to what happens when the rocker meets the fashionista.

She Says: Dane is a good outfit feels more on the rocker side. I chose accessories that are not too loud, choosing rather simple ones that matched his clothes. I'm glad he liked the look, which he describes as punk and cool.

He says: "Kat's (Ms) look simple, but the whole package (vibe), I think he don't wear her necklace. They're simple, but feminine really looked good on me."

DANE'S SCUBED STYLE - P 870.00

Team Dane and Kat

The punk look by Kat, DANE'S SCUBED STYLE - P 870.00

Black leather belt, P129.75

Black stripe wristwatch with grey frame, P99.75

Black sling bag, P99.75

Black leather belt with brass buckle, P299.75

Key necklace, P79.75

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Thelma Sioson-San Juan
Selection Editor
Pam Pastor

A Bug's life

By Tarin Yong
Contributor

LOOK THROUGH THE CAMera of any pet owner and you will see photos of his/her pet in various stages of sleep, funny poses and gestures that every pet owner deludes himself into thinking that only his pet can do, and the occasional lucky snap of a pet humping another (maybe that last one is just mine).

When Bug's photo first came up as a post on my Tumblr dashboard, I had to click on it, because it was a photo of a rat sleeping on its side subtle slumbering a wifely faux. Plus, Bug's owner even made a book. About a rat.

While my favorite pets are dogs, you won't see me loudly extolling the virtues of having dogs and then spitting in the eye of cat owners. I'm pretty iced with all kinds of animal lovers, but a rat was out there, even for me.

Even when Disney made a movie about a dreamer rat who aspired to elevate one gourmet clichés, I still felt the popcorn rattling up my throat when thousands of furry-trouble's buddies crashed through the roof of the restaurant to lend him a hand. Sorry Disney but no amount of cutesy animation would endear this scurrying rodent to me.

BUG LIKES rubber duckies.

BUG AND her owner, Jessica Fonseca

SHOPWISE
SAVE BIG!
JULY 09 to 18, 2010

CRAZY OFFER
Regular Price: P268.00
189.75/kg
Beef Kaldereta Cut
SAVE P78.25

28.00/pc
Whole Wheat Mini Baguette
BUY 1 TAKE 1

69.00/500g
Red Globe Grapes

12.00/pc
Spanish Bread
BUY 2 TAKE 1

99.00
Pet Jug
BUY 1 TAKE 1

Regular Price P199.00
99.00
SAVE P100

99.00
Shoe Box
BUY 1 TAKE 1

CLEARANCE SALE!
July 9 to August 1, 2010
Up to 75% off
Plus, hundreds of other offers storewide. Check our Save Big flyer from July 09 to 18, 2010

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

Where to Stop Where to Go

Fresh Tasmanian salmon at The Fireplace

THE WORLD'S MOST DELICIOUS SALMON IS NOW available at The Fireplace. Famous for its superior quality, delicious flavor and vast health benefits, fresh Tasmanian salmon will be chef Tero Isaco offering throughout July.

Indulge in this irresistible delicacy and discover the taste of success in such dishes as Smoked Salmon with Organic Lettuce and Sweet Mustard Dressing; Smoked Salmon with Capers, Shallots, and Dill Brioche Crisp; Grilled Dorne with Garden Leaf, Oven-Roasted Tomato, Lemon and Olive Oil; Pan-Seared Fillet with Mussel, Clams, Tomatoes and Olive Salsa; Baked Salmon Belly with Asparagus and Lemon Perlgreen; and Poached Salmon with Basil Risotto, Grilled Cherry Tomatoes, Deep-fried Leek and Asparagus.

Cap the night off with a bowl of The Fireplace's signature dessert, Hot Chocolate Soup, a smooth, velvety, rich soup of dark chocolate with a scoop of vanilla ice cream, and experience pure chocolate bliss.

Experience the best seafood only at The Fireplace. For reservations and enquiries, call 245-1234.

It's a Tres Jolie July at Sofitel

IT'S A TRULY BEAUTIFUL JULY IN SOFITEL PHILIPPINE PLAZA MANILA, CITY OF PASAY, CITY OF MANILA, CITY OF MANDALUYONG, CITY OF MAKATI, CITY OF PASIG, CITY OF TAGUIG, CITY OF PARAÑAQUE, CITY OF LAS PIÑAS, CITY OF MUNTINLUPA, CITY OF VALENZUELA, CITY OF MALABON, CITY OF NAVOTAS, CITY OF CALOOCAN, CITY OF QUEZON, CITY OF MARIKINA, CITY OF SAN JUAN

A Bug's life

From page 1

just every one who can make me promises on post-it.

Still, a cat who slept with a noble bear—surely that merited a little exploration. So I started clicking through Aurora. Photos of naps of Bug on Flickr. I found myself smiling. Before I knew it, I had used up my one hour of paid Internet at Starbucks, browsing through the TV photos that chronicled Bug's very-low-ebbed first years on Earth.

I wasn't the only one apparently. Bug was a bit of an Internet celebrity, and has even been featured as model in a 90s ad and in British clothes, with her talented teenage owner photographer.

The photos made me go "Awwww" while I tried to express a shudder. Their impossibly hottest-like tiny heads and long, furless tail are a bit creepy. Looking through the photos of Bug in various poses made me respond alternately to each owner.

Bug reminded me of my puppy in so many ways: curious, glutinous, lazy, funny and cuddly.

Apart from Jessica's obvious skill with a camera (her photos made me consider getting a cat), I could tell that she viewed Bug a lot, and her last photo which included a short eulogy to Bug brought tears to my own cold, dead.

Check out Bug the cat's photos on www.flickr.com/photos/mailbug/ and the book on some black-furry bookstore.

Tours, Leisure & Chow

Perla Mansion signs up with Paramount Hotels

PERLA CONDOMINIUM CORP. RECENTLY signed a contract with Paramount Hotels for the management of Perla Mansion resident. Manny Ferreras, president of Perla Condominium Corp. along with Paramount Hotels president Jose Mari del Rosario sealed the management contract last June.

Situated along Carlos Palanca Street at Legaspi Village in Makati city, Perla Mansion offers its guests accessibility to commercial establishments as well as the convenience of self-contained apartments. Guests can choose from standard Garden 1 suites to two-bedroom suites equipped with functional living and dining facilities with details such as cooking utilities, crockery, cutlery, glassware and chinaware. The units also have air-conditioning, cable TV, IDD/WIFI-ready phones and fast and cold showers. For business and leisure travelers alike, the condotel has an upper penthouse swimming pool, gym and sauna, function room, and Wi-Fi access to keep them connected.

Paramount, a sister company of Filinvest Hotels and Resorts, also manages other properties including Filinvest Training Center in Tagaytay, Sotoan Hotel in Pasay, The Aquino Center in Tarlac, Boso-Boso Hotel and Convention Center in Lemery and Subic Suites in Makati. For reservations and inquiries, please call: 8520999-7171, 6326836-1965 or visit our website at www.perlamansion.net.

NEW MANILA SALES OFFICE FOR BORACAY MANDARINA

Plantation Bay partners with Globe Business for its cost-effective solutions

PLANTATION BAY RESORT AND Spa, one of Cebu's leading tourist destinations, has recently entered into a partnership with Globe Business for its wireless voice solutions.

The signing ceremony was held at the resort's Mimosa-pan Hall. Its owners Gil Genio and Jean Swanson and Globe Business and Allen Solomon and Javier Quintos, representing Plantation Bay.

Established in 1999, Plantation Bay offers one of the largest private beach-front townscapes in the country and is frequented by both local and foreign guests. This 13.4-hectare resort and spa located in Mactan Island, Cebu showcases fine Filipino-Spanish heritage and hospitality.

"Business + enhances our workforce's mobility enabling all of us to communicate effortlessly. With this solution, our employees can stay connected wherever they may be in the sprawling grounds," said Elvira Belmonte, Plantation Bay's personnel manager. Apart from Business +, the resort also subscribes to Globe Direct internet for their broadband needs.

"The agreement is in line with our thrust to continuously develop beneficial and cost-effective communications solutions for our valued customers," said Gil Genio, head of Globe Business. "We hope that this is the beginning of a mutually collaboration with Plantation Bay," he added.

Globe Business, the corporate arm of Globe Telecom, provides companies such as Plantation Bay with reliable solutions that match what their business demands. It provides events and hotels in metro Cebu with a wide range of services, the best customer experience by offering the right communication tools, making processes and transactions such as reservations, check-in and check-out more efficient. Globe Business also aims to aid the hospitality industry in delivering consistent and personalized service to clients, while improving their own business operations and practices.

Golden Ocean
Holiday Park Hotel Baguio City
Hotel Alegria
Hotel Aracoa
Hotel Centrepoint
Hotel Conchita
Hotel Kimberly
Hotel La Corona de Lipa
Hotel Salcedo de Tagbi
Hotel Venezia
Ipsos Hotel Suites and Convention Center
Kamantigue Hotel
Manila Bay Marriott
Mt. Cloud Bamboo Resort
Pan Pacific Hotel
Pearl Farm Beach Resort
Pearl Manila Hotel
Pearl Plaza Hotel
Pearl Suites Cebu
Pearl Suites Davao
Pearl Suites Makati
Pearl Suites Pasay
Pearl Suites Quezon City
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SUNNY welcome. Members of Broadway Bakers and BFIT Girls People Express Theatre Group break out into song after digging into Jollibee breakfast fare

AND PIC-NASAN NGAT! Members of the media, theatre group BFIT, and Jollibee show value at factory and work go hand-in-hand. Can she be brighter the day'll be starting after consuming delicious offline enjoying Jollibee Breakfast fare.

My Jolli-'Glee' moment

The rain stopped, other guests started to sing and soon, I found myself dancing with Jollibee

By Pam Pastor

I FOUND MYSELF IN ORTIGAS ON A busy Friday squeezed into a room with members of Silly People's Improv Theater (SIPIT), Broadway Bakers, some bloggers and journalists.

This was the week Pinoys were going crazy over Jollibee's sentimental "Glee" campaign—where one of the musical numbers in the show showed the sign of one of Jollibee's 15 stores in the background.

What they didn't know was we were busy planning another Jollibee "Glee" moment, like many of us were headed to Mall-day night to walk Shalini Barry or to tell Bart Diamond how much we love him. But we were getting ready to do something the kids of "Glee" are good at... burning into song.

But forward to the day of our Jolli "Glee" moment. Our plan was simple. We were to suddenly sing a medley of morning-themed songs at the launch of Jollibee's new Sausage & Egg Pandesal at Jollibee's Ortigas-Roosevelt branch.

But the weather wasn't cooperating. It was early in the morning and the rain started to fall. The downpour wasn't the perfect background for our members-a lyrics. Still, we were only hands Jollibee as we dug into the generous spread of breakfast items...long-gonisa, beef tapa, crispy longsi, boneless, breakfast steak, corned beef, pancakes and rice with Sausage & Egg Pandesal.

THE AUTHOR looks out an upbeat morning song audience her friends from media in a surprise morning musical.

Right in the middle of breakfast, Cara Saavedra and Bea Garcia of Broadway Bakers stood on their seats and started singing Kenyn Lenon's "Gaslight." And that's when magic happened. The rain stopped, other guests started to sing and soon, I found myself dancing with Jollibee.

You heard: really loved until you've danced with a giant happy bee.

It was like a scene from "Glee"...except there was no need to dodge the evil-evil-bee Sylvesters.

After the song, the members of SIPIT took over the stage and gave everyone a good dose of improv hilarity.

Jollibee brand manager Mike Dizmond talked about the newest addition to Jollibee's Breakfast Joys. "We developed the Jollibee Sausage & Egg Pandesal, a delicious and soft pandesal filled with sausage patty, scrambled egg and whipped butter. It's a quick and filling meal that lets busy people enjoy a delicious breakfast even when they're on the go. With Jollibee's Breakfast Joys, we want to provide busy people with great experiences every morning."

And it's an affordable experience too—the Sausage & Egg Pandesal is available for P55. For an extra P10, you can get it with your choice of beverage. Sadly, the dancing fee doesn't come with the value meal.

Jollibee's *Breakfast Joys* are served until 11 a.m. in Jollibee stores nationwide. You can also order through Jollibee's Express Delivery by calling 6-7000.

JOLLIBEE PR manager Arlene Adora, brand manager Mike Dizmond, marketing manager Aileen Navarro, brand specialist Lot Lee, and PR officer Dennis Rivera hosting Jollibee Breakfast Joys.

Super LIFESTYLE

Meet the Filipino MTV Asia VJ finalists

Who will you vote for?

By Pam Pastor

THE INTERNET HAS changed everything —even the way MTV hunts for VJs.

"Our audience has Internet savvy and is all about experience. They are hoping a viewing pro-mise on the World Wide Web with social networking tools that showcase their individuality," said Jose Tomás, head of creative and content of MTV Asia. "That's why for the first time in history, MTV is saying 'Don't find us. We'll find you."

This time there was no call for entries. MTV spent a month trawling the Internet and searching for new talents. The virtual hunt has yielded a good mix of finalists—students, models, graphic designers, radio DJs, a tattoo artist, even a fire performer.

There are 20 finalists—five from Indonesia, three from Malaysia, four from Singapore, one from Thailand and seven from the Philippines. They are now in a five-week competition that will test their ability to engage their audiences.

The first challenge is over—they were asked to pull an Ashton and punk someone.

Each candidate has been given his/her profile page on the VJ Hunt microsite (vjhunt.mtvasia.com), where the candidates can upload content, interact with fans and post their most challenges.

Visitors to their pages can vote for their favorite candidates until July 25. Five finalists will then be selected to go to Singapore for the VJ Bootcamp.

The competition's finale will also be held in Singapore this month. The winner of MTV VJ Hunt 2010 will be awarded a year-long contract with MTV Asia.

Get to know four of the 20 prime candidates and find out who deserves your vote.

JOELLE TANCHANCO

http://vjhunt.mtvasia.com/contestant/joelle-tanchanco

Age: 20

School/Course: Ateneo de Manila University/BS Business Administration, Major in Marketing

Current job: Spent one school year at Ateneo de Manila University

Clear waters = Fresh, clean taste

How can you tell if bangus tastes fresh and clean? Find out where it was raised.

It's natural that bangus raised in the open seas is clean tasting and walang lasang gilik o putik.

Century Bangus is raised in Century farms in the open seas of Gen San. Out in the sea, dissolved oxygen is abundant for growth and survival. Waste wash away wastes so as not to pollute the environment. Bigger and deeper waters provide space for growth and meat development.

Blue seas have clean waters that provide a natural growing environment. Here, bangus feeds on nutritionally-balanced fish feeds to attain the desired quality.

The Century Way

Century Bangus is bred and grown in Century farms that operate under the strictest measures using sustainable and environment-friendly methods. The farms are registered with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, while the processing plants are Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) – certified.

Farm-fresh World-class!

Century Bangus comes straight from the Century farms to your favorite supermarkets and groceries to your table and to the world – so you, your family and friends can enjoy its blue sea-freshness.

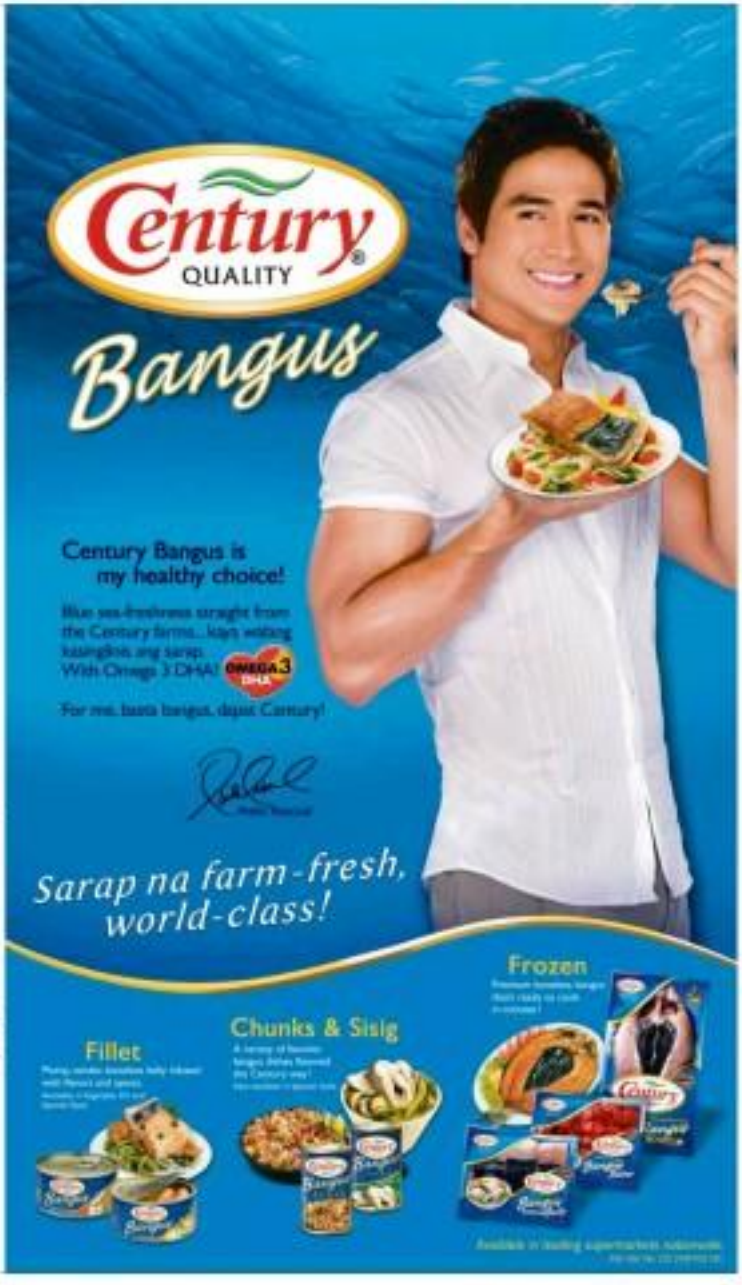
Piolo's Healthy Choice

Piolo's healthy lifestyle demands healthy eating. His work-hard, play-hard routine calls for convenient yet healthy and delicious meal options. This is why Century Bangus is Piolo's healthy choice. He delights in the fact that Century Bangus has Omega 3 DHA and he gets to enjoy it in a variety of ways and flavors – straight from the can or hot from the pan.

For Piolo, basta bangus, dapat Century., walang kasinglinis ang sarap! Sarap na farm-fresh, world-class!

Find us on Facebook

to discover more about Century Bangus.



Meet the Filipino MTV Asia VJ finalists

From page F1

What's keeping you busy?
I PE! But in extracurricular, I work and the VJ deal! I also try my best to squeeze in some "me time" and hangout with my friends.

Why do you want to be a VJ?
As cliché as it may sound, I've always dreamt of becoming one ... but never EVER thought that I'd get the opportunity to. It's all very new whatnot and exciting! I'm just really insanely happy to be a part of this competition.

Who's your favorite VJ of all time and why?
Basha Bass and Jay Jimenez. They both possess great looks, style, class, brains and a great sense of humor. Most importantly, I felt they could naturally captivate their audiences well.

What sets you apart from the other finalists?
My brain and personality!

Why should you be chosen?
I want to show the world that awesome things can come in small packages!

If you became a VJ, what's the first video you're going to play?
Jay Sting Kidz Pie by ex Stone Richard! They're fans of my videos.

What's the most music video you watched?
"Confessions Part II" by Usher. For a time, my first time watching the video and it was really quite funny.

What's your long name?
Basic of math, but mostly makeup. Oh, I also have a nickname gun spray and a coffee with no cream for friends, my pooch and grandpa to scare off strangers — it's all about safety.

What's the craziest thing you've done?
Joining this competition! And also serving as "Pokwang" to Bitchager at college! That one just got during my internship in COMELEC (Comelec monster event) held at Bacolod hotel.

What are you passionate about?
I am very passionate about art. It really is a versatile channel that can express anything and everything sincerely and even beyond life. Even though maga-life artista.

What's your sport from the other finalists?
Volleyball MTV!
MTV is a bond people from all walks of life coming together to celebrate music and fashion — which are two of the most beautiful and effective means to express love, angst, peace, happiness and sadness, and like! Additionally because it's MTV!

MTV VJ Hunt 2010 VJ: My basketball league and sabe. Be Used the outdoors since on TV I just started doing.

Why do you want to be a VJ?
Because I know I can do it! Everything's no stress, all my work experience, how much are a employee VJ of those is such a things!

Who is your favorite VJ of all time and why?
VJ Jill because I grew up watching him. He always seems so tempting. VJ Sarah Meier of MTV Philippines is also another great VJ and not because she's good looking but she had the skills of a good VJ very well.

What sets you apart from the other finalists?
I know that as an MTV VJ, there are responsibilities involved like being a role model. Though it is a little overdue, I decided a few years ago to live it right. I have no vices, unless you count the PS3 as one. I'm an outdoor/light kine athlete I've been contemplating a grandstand for myself. I know that I have a lot to offer and looking from your TV's experiences, I'm ready for this.

Why should you be chosen?
I believe I'm well groomed and I know that I need to have humility in check for balance. I know I'm free and I know when I'm heading.

If you became a VJ, what's the first video you'll play?
That's a tough one because there are so many good videos out there! But I'll most likely play Jim Jones' new music video at the moment.

What's the last music video you watched?
"Call Me Gaga" by Katy Perry, right before I left for work.

What's in your bag now?
Laptop, toiletries, a boxed and my Bible.

What's the craziest thing you've done?
Crazy but in crazy good! I know ...

What are you passionate about?
Work. Love. Life. Family. Friends. Basketball. Mall. God.

Why should people keep watching MTV?
Why wouldn't they watch it? It'll has got everything from just music videos, to also a lot of entertainment programs, it's the complete network!

ERI NEEMAN

http://vjhunt.mtvasia.com/contestant-vjerineeman/
Age: 25
Current Job: Radio DJ for U92 and TV host

What's keeping you busy?
Frankly, hosting for TV events and performing stand-up comedy with the Comedy Cartel as well as improv with ISFIT (Erik Ang Lee, Long mo Theatre).

Why do you want to be a VJ?
I know I'm right for this job. I've got the personality and the passion. I love interplay, music and experiencing new things. This wouldn't even be considered work for me if I won. Plus, I know there are so many people who look up to me.

Who's your favorite VJ of all time and why?
RJ Rhodora. As of the ones I could relate to the most, especially at being at ease.

What sets you apart from the other finalists?
My sense of humor. I'm a stand-up comedian and I've been doing that for almost four years now. I know that as much as I have a huge responsibility I still wanna live to see more! I'm all ready for it! I did tattoo removal on a pretty good job congregate this disease!

Why should you be chosen?
I have the experience. I'm 23. I've been a host for over five years, a radio DJ for 3 years and I'm passionate about pre for being. All that aside, this is something I wanna! I crave. I know I can back it up. I just need the opportunity.

If you became a VJ, what's the first video you're going to play?
"Bass Beast" by The Dolan Body Special (UMG).

What's the last music video you watched?
"Like a Girl" by Corinne Bailey Rae

What's in your bag now?
Gym clothes, eight packs of energized M&Ms as a liquid, a notebook and my RJ/P camera. I've been filming the VJ Hunt challenges these past few days.

What's the craziest thing you've done?
Well, I've chased after a man because he owed a hundred ... bank. I'll check on celebrity topics of the day ... I once wore a Speedo, something most guys will not ever do. Only time.

What are you passionate about?
Performing and people.

Why should people keep watching MTV?
Why shouldn't you?

MARCO BORROMEO

http://vjhunt.mtvasia.com/contestant/marco-vs-borromeo/
Age: 20
School/Course: Psychology
Current Job: Radio jock, host, UAC highschool champion
What's keeping you busy?

DAWN MARIE JIMENEZ SALAGOT

http://vjhunt.mtvasia.com/contestant/dawn-salagot/
Age: 20
School/Course: De La Salle College of Saint Benilde/Communication
Current Job: Model

What's keeping you busy?
Counter Strike! I've been playing that game lately. I also have school every Tuesdays. Thru' Saturday. Then that is on certain events I attend, and it's been spending more time at MY apartment.

Why do you want to be a VJ?
I love music, period. I want to share the songs and music videos I've listened to with everyone. I also want to play other people's favorites on television to inspire and share.

Who is your favorite VJ of all time and why?
Donnie Klose. She's amazing!

If you became a VJ, what's the first video you're going to play?
"It's not Unusual" by Jill Scott to Black.

What's the last music video you watched?
"Billionaire" by Travie McCoy. I just saw it!

What's in your bag now?
Travel Jacket, Goodwill Pre Scent, iPhone, Blackberry, wallet, Lip Smacker, digital camera, Victoria Secret body lotion and my headset

What's the craziest thing you've done?
I guess, the craziest thing I've done was when I was preparing myself on my trial video for the MTV VJ Hunt 2010 — I sang "Bob Seat" by Bo Burham on my mic in such an unconventional and I'm not sure if anyone noticed but I made a tiny mistake in the lyrics. There was also the recent VJ Hunt challenge where we had to do a push up competition — I was handed to get "kick-slapped" — that was really crazy.

What are you passionate about?
Everything.

Why should people keep watching MTV?
MTV has been a host for gays and we cannot deny the fact that they've put us really more talented peoples. I've been watching MTV since I was a little girl. Old boy Jamiery "We Like Baby One More Time" days 'til today. MTV really has it all — what's not to love about MTV?

Rule a kingdom, amass land, plant crops—on your iPhone

By Tom Yeng
Contributor

WHEN MY DAD GAVE ME A Tamagotchi (an egg-shaped digital game where you had to care for a creature) in my sixth grade, my concern never really was if I'd feed it or not. It naturally expired from hunger or drowned in its own droppings.

I was (and, terrible at games that required constant upkeep, so when my friend insisted I play We Rule, I knew I was doomed to fail. Still, she texted more neighbors and I figured I'd see what the fuss was about.

We Rule or the iPhone/iPod Touch/iPad is what Farmville is to Facebook, except for a few differences in the storyline.

The game has you as an overlord of a medieval empire and the goal is to expand your land and castle.

I downloaded the free game onto my iPhone and started my

kingdom.

Simple premise

We Rule's premise is simple. Start with a square patch of farming land, amass enough coins from crops to add more farming land and, as you level up, procure new and more exotic resources like running the villagers in carriages and artisan buildings.

Your neighbors come into play once you start building artisan buildings. Your friends can order from the stores you will—lounge, intelligence, mighty horses, forged swords and, the staple food of the Middle Ages, hot dogs.

I planted my way through the earliest of the first levels. There was only so much you could do with only one piece of farming land and even as your only crop.

Pretty soon, though, when I started leveling up, I found myself excited to harvest my magic asparagus, squash, potatoes and strawberries.

There are plenty of crops available, and it really is to be invested in varying times (magic asparagus takes 12 hours to grow while potatoes take six hours, but you get more coins and experience points by choosing the crop with the longer harvest time).

We Rule's social network element is also fun. Land-hopping to other friends' royal grounds or regulars for a party is enjoyable, and it's nice to get ideas on how to set up your land (my land is a poorly planned mish-mash of

At We Rule, you're an overlord of a medieval empire and the goal is to expand your farming land: get set ... plant!

cottages, farmland and shrubberys).

Big challenge

My biggest challenge now is playing the crop puzzle. In an effort to maximize my crop growth during the time I'm awake, I have to create an efficient planting schedule.

I had myself countdowns staring at the selection of crops while counting the hours till my fingers. If I plant a 12-hour crop at 7 p.m., that means I'd have to wake up at 7 a.m. to harvest, and no game is addictive enough to get me to wake up at that crazy hour.

I thought I was the only one, but a Google search for all the We Rule crops and skills led me to the official message boards, which is dedicated to maximizing your playing experience on We Rule. (It's still a nice list of user-source tips, also add to your network (something I'm surely tempted to do, adding virtual strangers for more land experience).

If you pass by a coffee shop and hear two people arguing over which crop is the best choice, chances are they're not real farmers, just We Rule addicts.

We Rule is available for free on the Appstore.

Eyeballs & curves

(LEFT) BlackBerry Curve 8530 in pearly white. (Right) with exclusive colors in dark Curve lineup, like this red one

By Tobit Yong
Contributor

LAST WEDNESDAY NIGHT, I FELT like I had entered a pseudo-time warp. It was in a crowded bar full of strangers who knew each other. Ok, I'm not trying to be poetic, but a roomful of strangers who have knowledge of each other is an apt description of an eyeball crowd.

At the risk of sounding anxious, I will admit that the last eyeball I a meeting of people whom that faceless encounters create chatting online). I had been to one back in high school, when mIRC (Microsoft's Internet Relay Chat) was the "in" thing and our Internet connection was via a 56K dial-up modem.

Today, mIRC & the dial-up modem are things of the past, but funny enough, the eyeball event has survived, through alternative devices and social networks. Twitter friends congregate regularly via "tweetups," and now also the BlackBerry Messenger or BBM users.

My first brush with the BlackBerry was an online article about how the then newly elected President Obama refused to give up his personal BlackBerry. The government reckoned it is the only device that can ensure end-to-end online usage (e.g. no sending of e-mails). His refusal to give up a mobile phone fetched my curiosity to learn more about the smartphone plenty of addressed users in the US dubbed "CrackBerry".

Hollywood celebs were seen chatting them to various gadgets, and movies showed high-powered Ken Wakes running around the city rapidly composing e-mails on it. It had awesome features—push e-mails that appeared instantaneously like text messages and the BlackBerry Messenger service, which lets you exchange messages with other users in any country for free. I wanted one so bad but it wasn't readily available here then.

THE BlackBerry Curve 8520 is the most affordable BlackBerry at P12,990

Even the early adopters who jumped the BlackBerry bandwagon were obviously dying to try out the BBM service, flaunting their uses, as jokes using the new BlackBerry keep asking the people he had just met if they had a BlackBerry and would ask them to add him to their contact list, just so he could start chatting away.

When I attended Globe's BlackBerry Great White BBM Eyeball Event at Republiq last week, it was evident that there wasn't any shortage of BlackBerry Messenger users (or crazy maniacs). The place was packed, and while each person had a different outfit on hand, everyone had a BlackBerry in the other. Apart from the really amazing beverages (I'm a bit of a rum fan) being going on among the BlackBerried, whoever could answer the most number of BBM contacts at the end of the event would not only be the most popular cyberbeauty, but would also get to spend a little R&R at The Palms in Boracay with two friends.

Globe also launched its latest addition to the BBM-enabled smartphone family, the BlackBerry Curve 8520. The most affordable model to date at P13,990 for the regular prepaid kit, with almost all the same features/functions/specifications.

Aside from the classically sexy black color, Globe also released two exclusive colors, a pearly white and a ruby red, ideal for those who want their mobile phones to fashion accessory.

There were loud personalities representing BlackBerry Curve—football player Phil Wenger (pictured), BBB queen Chris Gomez and fashion model Bea Soriano.

Globe's Angelo Ramos describes the three young celebs as ideal representations of the BlackBerry Curve's intended users—outgoing, hip, stylish and sophisticated.

I had the chance to test-drive some with the new Opera and finally understood why it runs on BlackBerry by many. It is addictive stuff, indeed.

Setting up the phone was a breeze, even though it was my first hands-on time with a BlackBerry device. In less than an hour, I had e-mail, Facebook, Twitter, Yahoo Messenger and Google Talk accounts set up already pushing status updates. The QWERTY keyboard, which looks difficult to master, is surprisingly well-spaced with the keys sized enough for you to get the hang of it pretty quickly.

The addictive kicks in once you've got all your social networks up and running...BlackBerry lets you configure a BlackBerry Internet Service, so you can tap on the subscribers' accounts and you can e-mail, or upload to your Facebook status, and the best part is that BlackBerry does the checking for you, through its push capabilities, so there's no constant need to access each account.

The device collects all your account messages and stores them in one inbox and with the right data plan, you can be online to whomever you like.

I always thought that the BlackBerry was more of a geek-to-business, serious gadget, but after this discovery, I can imagine it easily becoming a teenager's BFF or a lovey-dovey couple's way to share sweet nothings without having to break the bank.

The BlackBerry's creative way of entering your online presences makes it worthy of its CrackBerry pet name, I should know, I'm getting hooked already.

Windows®. Life without Walls™.
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VISION

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THE COLLECTIVE SOUL

Turn to page F4

Ritual

Philippine cuisine sets one given a fresh presentation in this cool-cool stone-style shop. Eat staple ingredients such as rock salt, mussels-de-sugar organic tea by the gram.

HEAD to Crazy Eddie's for preppy mishmiss varsity jackets and bow ties

Bravo

Search at "bravo.com," and you'll understandably be shown a list of collegiate-style apparel with abdominal shots...thanks, Brad Jarvis, the site of Bachelors leaves lasting backyard impact.

Sundae

Women's-clad ages will have fun checking out this brightly colored store with boutique items from Quiksilver, ROXY, Hurley and Pilot Pants. All items are limited edition. Follow http://twitter.com/thepocketbar

Crazy Eddie's Shirts, Slacks and Wonder Emporium

Owned by Art Lumaring, David Chiwaney, Ben Santiago and Jason Hidalgo, Crazy Eddie's is one of the most eye-catching stores at The Collection. The store, which looks like a vintage '50s thrift shop, carries everyday-style clothes such as vests, jackets, cardigans, loafers, and other accessories.

Vinyl on Vinyl

Beyond vinyl (VOR) isn't just about vinyl records. Rather some items collectible toys and art and bestsellers among others. Visit the store for exhibits, monthly film viewings, installations and talks. Follow Vinyl on Vinyl at http://www.vinylonvinyl.ph

Outerspace Gallery

This location offers short art hour up-and-coming young artists who like to keep their art cool. Review new work and emerging talent. Get to where artists go to hang out with fellow artists.

E-mail the author at chaka.romero@yahoo.com and/or www.twitter.com/chakaromero

'THE COLLECTIVE' SOUL

Manila's latest hipster hangout is low-key, relaxed and quirky

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By Bianca Cornejo
Contributor

METRO MANILA IS A CITY OF malls. When hipsters come to town, or visit, we usually head down to pristine shopping areas and brag about the international luxury brands that they house. But malls, convenient as they might be, are occasionally be soulless and bland. This is something that places such as Cubao X and Magallanes Street have tried to counter by offering small, community-oriented establishments.

The latest kid in town is The Collective, formerly an abandoned warehouse in Malugay Street, Makati. It now relaxed, indie-style alternative to malls. The Collective houses restaurants, bars, and boutiques owned by young entrepreneurs and artists. Founders Francesca Nepomuceno and Desiree Reyes envisioned The Collective as a melting pot of different people from different city cultures coming together under one roof.

While The Collective is expected to be fully operational by September this year, it's already a favorite hipster hangout in Manila. Yesterday, Wabi-Sabi hosted a TweetUp, which saw Twitter addicts from all around Manila meeting up in the restaurant. Regular events, such as street parties, quiz nights, and an exhibition, also hold court in the old warehouse.

GET your fill of awesome shirt and preppy polos in one of The Collectives' quirky boutiques

How to get there:

The Collective is located at 7219 Malugay St., Makati. Stores open 11 a.m. onwards, although the best time to head there is 10 p.m. onwards to catch live bands and people-watch. To get there, take right at Buendia from Edsa, turn right at Don Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo), and turn left at Yakal St. Turn left at Malugay and left at Malugay. Parking can be found on the road.

WHERE TO GO

Don't know where to start? Head to these tried-and-tested favorites at The Collective

B-Side

Conceptualized by Edo Mabo, Pleh-I, and Jeff, B-Side's glowing red lights are the center of The Collective. Dance all night without the pressure of looking good in killer heels and tight clothes, as this is the place to go for casual, relaxed chilling out and dancing.

Wabi-Sabi Noodle House and Vegetarian Grocery

Popular for its ramen, pho and Banh Mi (a Vietnamese baguette sandwich stuffed with vegetables and meat), Wabi-Sabi is one of the most popular establishments at The Collective. Go there for the food and stay for the vegetarian grocery, which carries nuts and other supplies for the growing number of vegetarian hipsters. Call 0915-8581214.

Wingman Grill

Known for its spicy buffalo wings, beers and bullos, Wingman is where people head when they want to recover from draining too many drinks. Everything on the menu is made from scratch, from the burger patties and the homemade sauces.

Mygold opens in Manila

Mygold, a jewelry store chain known for its current trendy cut-out, fine jewelry pieces, recently opened its first (2) two branches in Manila. The store showcased its timeless products which include a wide selection of gold, pearl and diamond jewelry. Last April 9, 2010, Mygold opened in SM City Sucat and a month later, at SM City Fairview on May 2, 2010.

The opening of these two stores should only be the start of Mygold's aim of aggressive expansion across major cities in the country. True to its vision, Mygold will continue to offer value investment pieces to Filipinos. To date, Mygold has (5) six branches located in Cebu and Manila located at Robinsons Markets, two stores in Colon St. (near J.Luna and near PLDAIRO), SM City Sucat and SM City Fairview.

Mygold SM Fairview ribbon cutting (Mygold representatives with Ms. Jenny Reyno and Ms. Jess Maria Tangay of SM Fairview)

Mygold SM Sucat ribbon cutting (Mygold representatives with Ms. Raya Tolong and Mr. Jon Reyno of SM Sucat)

Mygold

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NOW SHOWING

Hunting the hunter

By Rito P. Asilo

ONCE IN A WHILE, IT'S SHOCKING TO see a movie rumored the inherent limitations of its genre. Such is Shimizu Atsushi's crooked-cop-cum-serial-killer thriller, "Predators," which follows the adventures of eight hardened warriors from outfit after they're thrown out of one uneven spaceship.

As they regain consciousness, it doesn't take them long to realize they're on a new hellish, and they're plummeting toward another planet! Worse, it isn't a very genial one.

With the exception of Edwin (Topher Grace), a seemingly affable medical doctor with a dark secret, the prospects dispense any of mercenaries and cold-blooded killers, headed by Royce (Lawrence Fishburne), a Rwandan-operation-turned-brutal hunter.

Samurai warrior

Royce leads the ...ion-from-friendly bunch composed of brooding samurai wannabe, Hanzo (Louis Ozawa Changchien); tough-as-nails Nikolai (Oleg Taktarov), a Russian soldier; gyrating Mexican maniac, Cuchillo (Danny Trejo); tattooed tomboy Isabelle Alan (Walton Goggins); driven wanted, Mombasa (Mahershalalhashbaz Ali); and Israeli woman, Stifmiller (Alice Braga), an Israeli sniper. Joining them is Lawrence Fishburne as Noland, an unhinged recluse.

Do the earthlings stand a chance against their intellectually (not technologically) superior alien captors, who see them only as the unorganized human as a deadly game? With fast and furious escapes that move the exposition in breathtaking fashion, most great viewers the answer in he drives them to the edge of their seats.

Relentless action

But, there's more to "Predators" than relentless action and mind-blowing thrills. Just when you think you know where the story is heading, the Conners-rotating direction surprises investigators by pacing his flawed protagonists in a moral crisis that sets them — and their audiences — frantic.

The denouement drives the movie's atrocities and reveals recently in divergent directions. The baffled Brody and the antisocial Quinn will leave you wondering whether they're hero or heel—but, really, nothing in this world—or any other world—is in black and white or that, right?

The postmodern cleverly builds an atmosphere of hopelessness and desperation, and does its viewers with the question, "If you were in his situation, would you do the same?" On the down side, the nagging point about the alien race's motivations for abducting their "prisoners"; remains unanswered. Is their nonexistence well-deserved?

This leaves the characters second-guessing the rules and adventures of their desperate situation—and that's a major bummer. Did they just want to teach the stubborn humans once a lesson in morality—and humility? Poor saints.

We thoroughly enjoyed Antal's mind-numbing (dis)-ramatic thriller, "Control," but we couldn't stand last year's confoundingly messy science, "Armored." Still, the 36-year-old Alexander redeems himself in "Predators," a film we didn't have high expectations for. We thought "Control" was just a happy fluke, so we're glad the director's latest film proves it wasn't.

Kaleidoscopic fusion of old and new at Cinemalaya 6

By Nestor U. Torre

SOLO. Featured in three of nine movies in the DVD showcase.

WE HAVE ALL THESE FEELINGS TO DA-bronze and capped the year's Cinemalaya, which has just started its sixth annual run at the CCP.

Aside from the 10 new features this and 12 short-film premiers, we're particularly interested in the old DM Pergaya movies being screened at the festival. Dave Bautista's and movie buffs should watch them to realize that the Philippines did produce some outstanding movies before the industry went into its mostly-hang-dump.

Classics

The Cinemalaya represented include some of our "best ever"—Manuel Silos, Gregorio Fernandez and Lamberto Avellana. Of these major classics featured, we've seen Avellana's "Huwebesan ng Lolo" and Fernandez's "Hiyas sa Lahat," and they still share brightly as our recollection as truly sensational movies, despite the many decades that have passed.

Incidentally, the DVD showcase is a Classics Indie mini-retrospective of sorts, since the entire theme of the nine movies are retro. This should go a long way in reminding film lovers why Quezon was a luminous dramatic star of the local silver screen for many years.

Tita has past, veritable secret king, Rogelio dela Rosa, is represented with two movies. Other vintage screen icons whose performances can again be savored many years after the fact are Pedrito de Villa, Bembi Gregorio, Eddie Rodriguez, Fernando Poe Jr., Ely Ramos, Norma Blancaflor, Sylvia La Torre and

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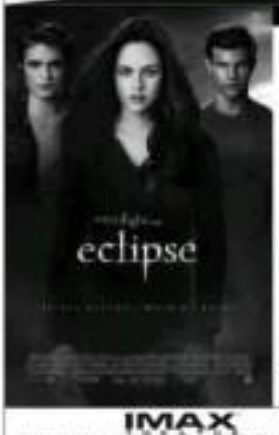

Answer the The Twilight Saga: Eclipse trivia question and get chance to win these cool prizes!

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Sarah scintillates on PBO

IN CELEBRATION OF HER 22nd birthday, PBO lady Sarah Geronimo with special features of his stories and stories every weekend this July at 8:30 p.m.

The two Friday nights, yesterday and July 23, Sarah's hits on the silver screen and stage are on PBO Premiere. First comes the highest-grossing Filipino film of all time, "Ang Change! My Life." In the sequel to "A Very Special Love," Sarah returns as Lesla Magsalay, the doting girlfriend who is willing to sacrifice anything for the love of her life, played by John Lloyd Cruz. Next comes "Barcelona," Sarah's fourth concert at the Big Dome with the biggest gate takedown ever.

Every Saturday night, enjoy watching "Sarah the Box Office Queen," the first-ever reality drama, "Filipinas," topbilled by Marvel

DESCRIBED. Special features to celebrate her 22nd birthday

Sheena, Steve Zakarra and Richard Gomez are lucky. Her first lead role is in "Lastikman: Unang Hirit," on July 17, with fellow singer Mark Bautista in the title role.

Phenomenal team-up

Sarah led matter her mark as the box-smash editorial assistant, Linda Magdalo, who's in love with her boss in "A Very Special Love" on July 24. The phenomenal team-up with John Lloyd Cruz is followed by "You Changed My Life" on July 31.

Sunday nights are exclusive for Sarah's concerts, as PBO presents "Popstar's Heart" On July 11, "Sarah in Mexico" features Gary Valenciano and AcAt Defao fans; the "The Office of Sarah" on July 18. And on July 25, don't miss "The Silver One," her biggest concert, with John Lloyd Cruz.

Visit www.sviva.com.ph.

Kaleidoscopic fusion . . .

From page 4

comedians, Pugo and Rounds.

Which films should we watch in the competition proper of this year's Cinemalaya? We asked to watch and be read, "All of them!" We admire his loyalty and enthusiasm, but what if a film buff is pressed for time and can only watch three full-length features? It's all quite subjective, of course, but our instinct says we consider watching "Bituin" "Metodista" and "Transeksuals."

If journalistic interest to pamuso Andrews and young students to the festival's "Kids' Shorts" sessions, which showcases the full-length features, "Gabriela," "Ding Sana Ito" and "Sinsot," as well as a number of short films.

If Cinemalaya wants to serve the needs of the country's millions of young, impressionable minds and hearts who are poorly served by mainstream TV and movies, it should make next year's competition from exclusively full-length and short films for young viewers.

This would be a major contribution that would save the portraits of many viewers, who are concerned about the dearth of good quality of TV-like productions for children in this country.

Do think about it, Tandoy Aies, Lauren, Bobbie and Mans.

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SHORTS AND SHORTS	ECLIPSE	
ECLIPSE	TOY STORY	ECLIPSE
PREDATORS	STREET DANCE (3D)	

Blonde...

From page C4

quickly covered my back out in a hot one she brought along."

Katy didn't Cruz: "She Caught me the Tagalog term ('Mayluma Ay Ito Kay' and 'Didn't It Sir') that became my signature songs. The radio I learned more songs in the different regional languages."

Tim Hudson: "I met her after the Lenovo Vita and we became close friends."

Great friends

Kris and Bong Aquino: "Great friends. When they quarreled, they told me they described each other as the unorganized wind-ever."

Norma Blancaflor: "She told me that women who have a widow's peak (hole at chest above the collarbone) are lucky."

Oscar Moreno: Initially, there was silence. Then, after some thought, Jean whispered, "He was my first leading man."

Bernie Bravo (who was in the Philippines for the American Gamefish in the Philippines): "He was polite and very much a gentleman."

And, Linda Christian (Power's wife): "Sh-h-h!"

'Cats,' 'Equus' bring back bemusing memories

By Nestor U. Torre

TWO OF THE THREE PEOPLE featuring these month are "Equus" and "Cats." How will they shape up as viewing experiences? Even today's impact changes depending on how it's staged, of course, but let me give you an advance talking by way of those recollections of shows produced by three shows I have seen before.

The first production of "Cats" I viewed was directed by Tom Mahron. It was a proficient production, distinguished, if memory serves, by the performance of Gidon in the weary, arthritic jellicle.

I also recall the exceptional performance of two "guest" (theatre) cats played by a gay transsexual screech and a young—Cats, mind! Yes, the future Manila City councilor was a talented singer-dancer in her youth.

My memory was randomly good, and Boni matches was in this period of wonderful. Whatever happened to Boni? Last I heard on TV, Cilla had fallen down on her luck. Hope she still has it' as long to get back in performing it to.

MARTINEZ. "Controversial" role.

Plus points

Some years later, I was invited to catch another staging of "Cats" in a touring production visiting Singapore. It seemed seen to be a definitive show that Sally Gershwin had the famous musical's many artistic plus points.

The creative execution of the symphonic magical world of felines, what it had to say to human about their own painful universe, and performances that really hit the spot. I must find the new CCP staging of "Cats" this month (with Lea Salonga as feline-thrills) will be up to you.

My memories of "Equus" are more personal. It was mounted by Repertoire Philippines when I was still acting with Rep, in Diana Rosario's one in the cast, to do with the fear that this "whole world" was going to see what they had so far kept within the privacy of their bedroom. To help calm his nerves, I watched the play's opening performance with him.

Thespic challenge

Leo played his male torment naturally and then recounted up to the thespic challenge—although, the friends would find him later he delivered his ah, chest-rumings. Don't chastise: The set-undressing in the small theatre was on full third day by the performance!).

When it came to that healing lady's every "excitement," she was played it cool (despite the fact that she had "more" to reveal). So, she wasn't the problem; it was her husband.

And by moment-to-moment term, I could sense him quietly hoisting not beside me. "Oh no, oh no," he muttered, and it was done (but he was feeling your uncomfortable about intimately sharing his with the "whole world."

—What stories will the rest of the new production of "Equus" have to share in the coming months—and years?

Whatever those backstage tales may turn out to be, I trust that the new production's male mountain won't distract and distort from the acclaimed play's significant dramatic and psychological revelations.

Nicole...

From page B3

peaks sprang on them.

'Launch My Line'

ETC.'s newest fashion design competition, "Launch My Line," premieres July 5 at 10 p.m. Paired with an expert designer, the teams [illegible] of young professionals encouraged to draw own fields of expertise will work together on a series of challenges that will test the professionalism, creativity and the designers' patience.

2010 Outstanding Manilan

Bro. Fr. Rolando E. dela Rosa, OF rector of the University of Santo Tomas, was recognized by the City of Manila as one of the 2010 Outstanding Manilans during the 443rd Araw ng Maynila on June 24.

He was awarded the honorific humanitarian role to educational, which is reflected in his commitment and competence to lead the University of Santo Tomas toward excellence in 400th Foundation anniversary in 2011 to continue its mission of building the family, the Church and the nation.

CINEMA ACCESS: 395-5555

MOVIEWORLD

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

GALLERIA

1 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
2 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
3 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
4 PREDATORS
5 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
6 TOY STORY 3 | STREET DANCE (Digital 3D)
7 KNIGHT AND DAY
8 TOY STORY 3
9 THE KARATE KID
10 LAMPAN

MANILA | **METRO EAST**

1 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
2 PREDATORS
3 TOY STORY 3 | STREET DANCE (Digital 3D)
4 KNIGHT AND DAY
5 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
6 STREETDANCE
7 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE | TOY STORY 3
1 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
2 STREET DANCE (Digital 3D)
3 TOY STORY 3
4 THE KARATE KID

NOVALICHES | **FORUM ROBINSONS**

1 THE KARATE KID
2 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
3 PREDATORS
4 KNIGHT AND DAY
1 STREET DANCE (Digital 3D)
2 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
3 TOY STORY 3
4 PREDATORS

STA. ROSA | **LIPA**

1 PREDATORS
2 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
3 MAHIRAP LANG
4 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
1 STREET DANCE (Digital 3D)
2 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
3 SEX AND THE CITY 3
4 PREDATORS
5 TOY STORY 3

DASMARIÑAS | **STARMILLS**

1 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
2 TOY STORY 3
3 PREDATORS
4 BARBADOS
1 STREET DANCE (Digital 3D)
2 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
3 THE KARATE KID
4 TOY STORY 3
5 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
6 PREDATORS

IMUS | **ANGELES**

1 PREDATORS
2 TOY STORY 3
3 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
4 KNIGHT AND DAY
1 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
2 THE KARATE KID
3 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
4 PREDATORS

TACLOBAN | **DUMAGUETE**

1 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
2 ROBIN HOOD
3 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
1 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
2 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
3 A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET

BACOLOD | **ILOILO**

1 STREET DANCE (Digital 3D)
2 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
3 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
4 KNIGHT AND DAY
5 TOY STORY 3
6 PREDATORS
1 STREET DANCE (Digital 3D)
2 THE KARATE KID
3 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
4 PREDATORS
5 TOY STORY 3
6 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE

GENSAN

1 STREET DANCE (Digital 3D)
2 TOY STORY 3
3 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
4 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE

ILOCOS NORTE

1 PREDATORS
2 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
3 A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET

Angelina Jolie looks after needy children

By Jocelyn Valle

ASK US ANYTHING UNDER the entertainment sun, and we'll get your answers. This week's Q&A:

What is the extent of Angelina Jolie's advocacy for children? —Aline Lavigne, @sundaysrising City

Angelina Jolie's advocacy goes beyond adopting culturally diverse kids. As a Goodwill Ambassador of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the blonde sometimes help is needed. She was recently in Ecuador to promote World Refugee Day and draw attention to efforts in fight violence against women and children.

The Oscar-winning actress also endorses SOS Children's Villages, a global NGO that provides children with a home and a nurturing family in operation in 500 villages in 132 countries, including eight in the Philippines (Calbayog, Cebu, Davao, Laya, Iloilo, Manila, Tacloban and Bohol).

As a longtime supporter of SOS, I have visited many of these unique villages personally. It can reach for their commitment and care for children. As the Haiti situation unfolds, please learn more about and consider supporting SOS Children's Villages," reads part of her official call to action.

The "Salt" star has been in Jordan three last visit two with Brad Pitt in October 2009), Chad and Haiti, which she visited last June. The poverty-stricken Haiti Jolie-Pitt Foundation, donated over US$100,000 to SOS Children's Villages for refugees in Jordan and thousands of dollars more in Chad, while Jolie provides ongoing financial support to Amnesty, Jordan.

Politics

Who among the stars, past and present, are lawyers, and who was the first actor or actress to get political? —@Tyler Dia, Pan Lewellen Capadyjude, Bengalenton

Barbara Eugenia Palacio Ilustrado was appointed presiding judge of the Iloilo City Regional Trial Court in 1997, she was a popular singer-actress in the '60s and '70s and as an elected public broadcaster in the '80s she was encouraged by her late husband, Jaime Ilustrado, who was both a lawyer and politician, to hike up her and even really passed the bar in 1982.

Singing lawyer, Bet Ramos Gonzalez-Duterte, on the other hand, was still a student when she joined the UP Concert Chorus and the Opera Ensemble, but she was already a legal eagle by the time she acted solo in 1994.

Angelito Avila Sison was the first show biz honcho to have held a nationally elected post, as senator from 1987 to 1992. He ran as an independent candidate in the 1986 presidential polls against then incumbent President Cadet F. Garcia, and the Liberal Party's late Jovito Salonga, but he politicized at the race at the height of his campaign.

"My honest analysis of the situation made him realize that, while he could have campaigned, he, who, like him, came from Central Luzon, Garcia would ultimately win, since the Luzon votes would be split between them, while those from Visayas and Mindanao would go to Garcia, who was from the south. There was a need for change, and the only way this could be accomplished was for him to withdraw in favor of Salonga," said the analysis provided by his profile in the Philippine Senate's website.

His next attempts at politics included a senator in 1992 and the 2004 Bayanang Pangmasa) were futile, but he found a more productive career as a diplomat.

E-mail: [redacted]@gmail.com

Blonde sensation shares candid recollections

By Bobi Cervantes

JOAN INGE WAS THE BLONDE sensation of post-war Philippine show biz, from 1946 to 1952. She starred in Sampaguita Pictures' "Ang Awiting Nang Asawahinon," with Oscar Moreno. She was also the fiancée of Eddie Ilejay, one of the popular radio shows, "Tawag Mangangaso." Joan accomplished all this after she unexpectedly became the headliner of Manila Grand Opera House's "Hal-American Entertainment" in 1946.

Joan and I became friends when the late singer-film critic Amado Amoranto, Tito Medel, introduced us to each other. Two years ago, I spent a few days in her home outside Los Angeles.

I asked Joan, now 88, for her impressions of various personalities she met when she was still active in the biz. Her candid replies:

Kissing scene

Her answer to Pete Ilejay: "He is noted as a kissing scene if we ever made it. He is good looking, tall, big and charming."

Sam Bonde: "She was full of life and fun to be with. I was sad for her when she developed a mental illness in the Bond Bank."

Gloria Romero: "I only met her in 2008. Looking forward to her visit to Manila. By then, we were two old women."

Dolphy: "I first met him in

JOLIE. Travels to wherever help is needed.

PAGE. Starred in Philippine productions from 1946 to 1952.

LA, he's a cheric."

Beatrice Magdalena: "Growing. He was very much a positive man."

Tito Duran: "She gave me a recipe for chicken curry cooked in coconut milk."

The Manila Grand Opera House: "I distinctly remember the mezzo-soprano from the stage. I was greeted by tapat-commenting the Philippine-American Independence," Kissing Joan Vega. The Americans in the troupe loved me, so I spent my time with the Filipino performers."

President Elpidio Quirino: "I sang Buenas Ilo en Bolanos for him in Malacañang Palace."

Arni Rosales, the first Miss Universe, "Lovely person."

Erlinda Cortes, her close friend: "We performed together for the 20th INCT in Davao. I was a pacifist-boy, so I remember thinking, 'called' Erlinda

BLONDE III

AnakTV-MTRCB partnership strengthens TV advocacy

IN AUGUST 2003, ANAKTV CONducted a project to monitor TV programs offerings. The study was done in response to many parents who wanted to know what shows were on while they were at work.

Called The Columbia Study, it's used by AnakTV as well awareness to the problem of TV viewing among children who are unsupervised when they watch.

Programming

The current partnership with MTRCB is a follow through of The Columbia Study. Officially it is the Anak-MTRCB TV Study of 2010, in which an aggregate but randomly selected four weeks' worth of local programming from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. was loosely monitored.

AnakTV researchers reviewed tapes on-air provided by MTRCB. The three covered were from April 26 to May 23 this year. Sample analysis that they reviewed what could be harmful to kids over daytime was to drive home the point. Many scenes, though officially approved by MTRCB, were included. When taken out of context, which children are prone to do, these scenes could prove to be cruelly senseless. The resultant material is a 30-minute composite video.

Guardians

It should be understood that the video is addressed to parents and guardians who are the last guardians of children. It hopes to impress on them that networks need to be sensitive to the issues of child development, and that the TV set is not a babysitter. Further, it is AnakTV's duty of deterring parents from any old hours of a child's day should be discussed in watching television.

The crux of the study involved measuring the number of violence instances per minute of seven violence probably toward minors. Sex and brutality per viewing hour they compared.

The study will make it easy for AnakTV and MTRCB to make the necessary recommendations to educators, parents, child rights organizations, children-based NGOs and child welfare agencies about how best to help children cope in the face of television's constant offerings.

Going green

STREET SMART

Mandy Navarrete

AS PART OF UNITED World College of South-East Asia-Singapore's "Project Week," Miles Lester Navarrete, 17, asked four friends in school to take a trip back home, with the goal of helping outside, or orphans in the region.

Alliers group spent their internship at Green School in Bali, where they worked on resolving materials. The buildings at the school are primarily made of bamboo treated with natural substances to prevent bugs.

This, in turn just one example, Paul Newton (centered in the middle of the picture, over after shot have already shown much of what they can do, a to put them off with similarly popular talents on the street life).

Those, to give just one example, Paul Newton (centered in the middle of the picture, over after shot have already shown much of what they can do, a to put them off with similarly popular talents on the street life).

In her days, the institution provides "inflatable" classrooms—a novel idea that helps keep students and teachers cool.

Miles shares, "My friends and I found this school peaceful, soothing and inspiring. We connected with the staff and the students. Within, I even enabled my Manila-based grandma, Melita Rivenido of Philippine Daily Inquirer, to use my equipment to the school. The Bali time made my friends and me 'green' advocates. We launched the possibility of starting a small Green School in Batroon, where underwrote will exist."

Join our Signal Photo Safari on Oct. 26, 27, and the Bolinao Photo Safari, from November to May next year. E-mail mandy.navarrete@yahoo.com, or call 0999-1767.

MANDATED. Trip to Sarawak.

All icing, no cake

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN STARS BECOME POPULAR and back-to-back in long and prosperous careers, producers do their best to figure out how to cannibalize their appeal to viewers.

One of the best ways to avoid losing the audience, even after they have already shown much of what they can do, is to pair them off with similarly popular talents on the small tube.

Thus, to cite just one example, Paul Newton (centered in the middle of the picture, over after shot have already shown much of what they can do, a to put them off with similarly popular talents on the small tube).

Consider Elizabeth Taylor made movies with Richard Burton, Montgomery Clift, Rock Hudson and Robert Taylor.

In Sharon Cuneta's case, the sequential online pairing acquired a more personal coloration, since her ex was known for having other with quite a number of film leading ladies. They included Diane Keaton, Jane Fonda, Natalie Wood, Leslie Caron, Julie Christie, Joan Seymour, Kate Jackson and Faye Dunaway—!

Reunited

What about Tom Cruise? He's reunited quite a lot of lively movie stars in the course of his career, and is currently reunited with Cameron Diaz, who first acted with him early in the school period.

CRUISE AND DIAZ. Endless series of reboots, slow duets and lustunsconcealed eclipses.

in her scene-cameo in "Vanilla Sky."

This time around, they're reuniting in the very-cute and spy thriller, "Knight and Day" and it's memorable to see them in action, because their random replies what's going on in the hit Bond days.

Not one thing, Cruise is older than Bond by 18 years. He's 47), so their pairing is considered to pair to "excellent" his screen image. Thankfully, Cruise has kept himself physically fit, so his being paired with a noticeably younger one doesn't come off as embarrassing and TH.

—Except in one scene, where he strips down to swimming trunks, and reveals a body that's not as trim as it supposed to be for an actor like this.

Luckily for Cruise, however, Diaz herself is no longer a spring chicken, so when she strips down to a two bikini-and-swords-her-arm-near-her-chest body, she effectively dances from the impressions.....You think he was the one who insisted that she join him in the dancing and boxing scene?

Well, at least Cruise hasn't (yet) copied co-star odds-ares and-ears young enough to be his daughter (like Miley Cyrus's...or grandaughters, as some Pinoy actors seem to prefer).

Diverting

What about "Knight and Day" as a film? It's diverting in its own way, despite the fact that its outline feels of derring-do on well-nigh impossible flights of hair-raising (surrounded) feats.

Its plot is similarly improbable: ahead a top secret agent (Cruise) having to contend with all sorts of rogue agents as he protects the young inventor of a top-secret source of endless energy that many governments heads covet.

But, never mind the so-called plot. What matters is the pairing, as the ostensibly endless series of chases, close shaves and last-unconcealed escapes that Cruise and his acquiescent, "accidental" sidekick and dazzling lady are able to manage.

Yes, they're highly improbable, implausible and sometimes downright impossible—but, the determinedly tasteless do succeed in deceiving us from the fact that the cinematic contortions is all long, no cake.

Nicole Hyala . . .

From page G6

but extremely dangerous scenes of Abraham hang over fighting.

Movies on TV

On ABS-CBN, at 9 p.m., "Nights in Rodanthe," Tomorrow at 9 p.m., "Best Thing," July 12 at 11 a.m., "Bio, Bri Love," July 13 at 9:30 p.m., "Mamma Mia." July 14 at 5:30 p.m., "Harold Kuling," July 15 at 5:45 p.m., "Bowling Billionaires," July 16 at 5:25 p.m., "Girlfriend."

On Channel 2 today at 12 noon, "One Missed Call," Tomorrow at 10:30 a.m., "Hotel Ladies." July 12 at 5:15 p.m., "The 7th Sense of Isabel." July 13 at 1 p.m., "Operation Boobs." July 14 at 6 a.m., "Sic Strangulers." July 16 at 6 p.m., "Shine."

Back to his first love

Former Vice President Noli de Castro returns to full-time radio broadcasting on Monday, July 22, via the one-hour program, "Kabayan: Ka-pinoy-online ng Mamamayan, Radio at Telebisyon" on dzBB Radio Band 630 and dzMM Teleradyo (sky Cable channel 161). The return comes as time for the anniversary month of dzBB, which is celebrating its 24th year.

'Spartacus: Blood and Sand'

The graphic and visceral sex-es-ses, "Spartacus: Blood and Sand" premieres on Cinemax today at 10 p.m. The epic TV revisit stars Andy Whitfield as Spartacus and Lucy Lawless as Lucretia. A breakout success in the US, its premiere episode attracted 1.8 million viewers.

It is up to the homeland and the women he loves, Spartacus is reclaimed to the brutal world of the arena where blood and death provide the entertainment. To survive, he must become more than a gladiator—he must become a legend.

'Big Time Rush'

What happens when four boys from Minnesota suddenly fulfills its-twisted crop standoff? Brace yourself for "Big Time Rush," this Nickelodeon newest series, which airs on Mondays and Tuesdays at 5 p.m. The fun series is about being given a crazy opportunity

rally touching kind—and going for it! Log on to www.nick.com.ph.

Colt 45 promo launch

At 6:30 p.m. today, the Disney Channel premiere of the hidden camera series, "Best Ice Laughs-ever," which captures priceless reactions of unsuspecting people to good-natured on-prose and harmless

Brilliant couple is on a roll

HOLAH AND THOMAS. Innovative choreographic achievements

LOS ANGELES—If you weren't aware of their ingenious filmography, Christopher Holzer and Emma Thomas would walk past you and you'd think they're just a regular couple. The duo (he's of course a director, and she's a producer) who brought us brilliant films like "The Dark Knight," "Memento" and, now, the zombie "Insurgence," are pretty low-key.

Christopher has retained the brand ways of his native England. Emma, on the other hand, is more casual and more jovial in laughter. They met in college at the University College London where he began shooting 16mm films and learned gaffer. Filmmaking. In between, which he employed in his first feature, with Emma as producer, "Following." They also collaborated on "The Prestige," "Insomnia" and "Batman Begins."

Details

It is mind-boggling that "Insurgence" is only their seventh film, but what an innovative cinematic achievement it is. We tend to avoid writing very specific details about the movie, which we'll simply describe as a film about a team of thieves who can steal valuable corporate secrets from inventors' brains while they're sleeping. That way you can search "Inception" and be surprised by its inventive elements.

"Inception" stars Leonardo DiCaprio, Marion Cotillard, Tom Hardy, Ellen Page, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Cillian Murphy, Tom Hardy, Tom Berenger and Michael Caine.

Memory since 1997, Christopher and Emma have been husband-and-wife. The pair is working on the next "Inception" film, but is coy about divulging details on the third "Batman" film project.

Excerpts of our interview:

"Inception" is considered Hollywood's first existential heist movie. What was your inspiration?

Christopher Nolan (C): I've always had a big interest in dreams. I've been wanting to do a film about dreams for a long time. I've been working on it through the years. I guess you're viewing the people you're talking to, putting the events in their months, etc. But, you're not aware of that. You feel like you're actually in a real world, just experiencing it. That seems interesting to me because it engages the infinite potential of the human mind and its power to create.

About 10 years ago, I burned on this heist movie idea—using the audience in the process of creating an elaborate reality to manipulate and so forth. It has been a long process of building on certain key concepts, then, trying to find the emotional center of that story.

Can you describe your process during these 10 years?

C: It took me a long time to decide the idea, think about them and find expression for them. I don't do a lot of research. I try to write subjectively. I just continued my own process of dreaming.

Do you wish you could share what's in your head?

Emma Thomas (E): I don't know if I'd want to go inside Chris' head and know what's really going on in there (laughs). I am, however, fascinated by where he comes up with all these ideas, perhaps he subject laughter if I did. But, if I see his dreams, I don't know (laughs).

Manipulation

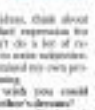
C: The film suggests that if you could share dreams, this could lead to unique opportunities to abuse and manipulation. We have this incredible powers of the mind that is completely personal and private. That may be an important thing. Is it a good thing to break down that barrier between people? Obviously, I'm like probably suggests that it wasn't.

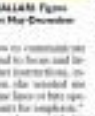
So till an edited true typical dreams are, and about this weekend being dream mothers.

E: My dreams are small, whereas his are big (laughs). I get very much taken up with the

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Akshay T. Sapkale





Nutrition before education

By Hector G. Torres

YOU READ ABOUT IT ALL over the place these days ...all sorts of well-meaning people urging President Benigno Aquino to make quality education for all Filipinos possible the most important focus of his administration.

The logic of this collective piece of uncalculated advice goes like this: If young minds are educated, a whole world of possibilities and productivities makes itself productively and prodigiously available to the nation, and untold benefits for everyone.

That's really great. Just, it can add to my own two pesos' worth of similarly uncalculated advice to the discussion, my take on the subject of good education for tomorrow is: Think about nutrition first.

You think...well, of course, it goes without saying! But, that's the point. For many underprivileged and thus underserved children in this country, it doesn't happen. In fact, the opposite is true. Poverty, the economic basis of school readiness, first the output of the workforce one lastly limited, simply because, despite everyone's best efforts, some of the students' undernourished minds could only assimilate so much information and learning.

Concepts

As the whole concept got more detailed and subtle, their young minds struggled to understand...but remain rife till their. It wasn't so bad in the wrong wordsbegin since the young actors could instinctively dig into their emotions for their raw intuitive feelings.

But, when it came to reading and directing, which need more structured and technical comprehension, some of the students' young, underdeveloped minds simply couldn't work with it or deeply enough to keep up with the increasing levels of information and education.

So, for the bottom line is: Before implementing sweeping educational reforms for everyone, please think nutrition for all students ahead the spider-bits. It would be money well spent.

Rome Mallari hears with his heart

By Rito P. Asilo

"LAHAT NA BAHAY GUMISING" (Yes!) is a movie that is an act of its beautiful sensibility, as the premiere issues it during, by tandem, Idolo Productions' harrowing there as one cinema, which opened the sixth edition of the annual Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival last night, starring Ronnie Alonte, Alex Medina Cabrill, Soo Pondo and Jessa Brown, and is directed by Ilsa Arevalo ("Ure"), Ellen Ramos ("Kapatid") and newcomer Sarah Bolos ("Mission, Bite Bang Pan").

We've been involved in a good number of dramatic-themed productions in theme ("The Vagina Monologues," "The Good Body," "Sacrilege," etc.), so we were only too happy when we heard about "Gising Ka Sabihin't" female-centered concept.

Love story

But, what truly intrigued us was the participation of its main lead, Rome Mallari, the talent of her honorary impaired sense of Mike Jandejao' award-winning light drama, "Ding Kung Ho," who is cast as a hearing character in the May-December love story, "Ken," with Ben in an out-of-the-box role.

In our recent chat with Rome (who spoke to us through his constant interpreter, Maryo Ignacio), the 30-year-old actress—who's not completely deaf ("I have four sounds and the nose sound, but they just seem like nuisances to me," he tells us)—discussed the challenges he faced in "Gising Ka Bahay."

Rome acknowledges the need for the hearing-impaired to be integrated rather than segregated—and he enjoys the support of families and lovers in in the regard. But, it wasn't just the prospect of seeing opposites in romantic portrayal; his focus that cemented shunning for him, but into the challenge of portraying a character with no hearing impediment, as well.

Emphasis

He recalls, "It was hard to do away with sign language, and I know it wasn't going to be easy. But, I wanted to do it because I'm an actor. Aside to actors to as kind of learning role, may to go along connection or sign language to communicate with them."

How did he prepare for the role? Rome replies, "I got my cues and motivations from the script. I didn't have a lead time with the role because my director knows my capabilities. I'm not sure if I'm ready for it, but I'm willing to do it."

ROA AND MALLARI. Figure in bittersweet May-December romance.

Rome seems serious about acting, it's because he's been in theater for more than a decade now—directly or indirectly.

Interestingly as we continued to probe into Rome's personality as well as his intriguing thoughts, we were riveted by the roles and drama of that story in fact. So life is a movie worthy to be produced.

Curiosity

Long after the loving "Father" he have joined many Rome found a place that piqued his curiosity—he touched deaf only when he was 6 years old. He relates, "Why did I like Rome first song? So, I asked my mate, who confirmed that I was just educated by my mom and dad—and that I was born deaf. For the life, I said don't know how my parents got me—so if my hypothesis/guesses are still alive.

"People ask me if I'm American or European...or am I Born. Are I Anglo? Seriously, myself-esteem is very strong, how working documents are suggestively and I'm very happy to be Filipino/Japanese are still alive.

"People ask me if I'm American or European...or am I Born. Are I Anglo? Seriously, myself-esteem is very strong, how working documents are suggestively and I'm very happy to be Filipino/Japanese are still alive.

But, life goes on for Rome. Like his evolving artistry, it continuous unveil.

Indie film fest at CCP

A TOTAL OF 12 FILMS WILL BE in competition in the New Breed and Directors Showcase categories of the sixth Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival, currently running at the CCP.

The New Breed category features two subcategories: The Full-Length Feature and the Short Feature. Nine films will compete in the former's "Hubad" by Jimmy Abcarian, "Liwanag" by Gutierrez Mangansakan II, "Magkakapatid" by Kim Homer C. Garcia, "Matrikula" by Jun Villegas and Real Sta. Ana, "Patient" by Jimmy Abcarian, "Sampaguita" by Francis Xavier Pasion, "Si Teroks, Si Tekoks at si Amnuff" by Ato Bautista, "The Leaving" by Ian Dean S. London and, "Ver Pupil" by Dennis Marasigan.

Section

Ten films will compete in the Short Feature section: "Boss" by Daniela Chan, "Breakfast with Jolie" by Steven Tee, "Dalaw" by James Versoza, "Emperador" by Shugo Tayo, "Kwintas" by Arnel Tayag, "Musang" by Michael Red, "Mga Pusang Gil Te Boon" by Hubert Tee, "Solo" by Joey Agbayani, "P" by Mike Tolentino, and "Ping Lang Tonight" by Ines Rivera.

Established directors will be adding to the list: two Cinemalaya on the Glorietta Showcase: "Ang Pagbibit at Bandolero" by Marie O'Hara, "Isang Pusong Bato" by Mark Meily "Pink Ribbon Blues" by Jonathan Tapaya, "Signos" by Joel Lamangan, and "Two Funerals" by Eli Poreo.

This year, Cinemalaya pays tribute to JUN Urudata with a retrospective of DIN films: "Kwento ng Kutsero" "Abelin," Manuel Silos' "Victor Jose," Ernesto de Guzman's "Sampaon," Gregorio Fernandez's "Hapi sa Labas" Lumbera's "Anak Ni," "Tandaraya ng Lola," Fred Jimin's "Hidden Nature," F. E. Grandmother's "Bandida at Pugako, "Richard Abcarian's "Hating Kobra," and Gregorio Fernandez's "Song Ako's Mahal Mo."

The Cinemalaya Congress will be held on July 13-14 at the CCP Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino (Little Theater). The festival's theme will be "Liberating Its Exile Film 2000-2008."

Cinemalaya 11.28 level 1791-98.

Nicole Hyala cooks up yummy, new jingle

HYALA. Excited to serve you up a memorable...

POPULAR RADIO JOCK NICOLE HYALA is embracing her new role as housewife with characteristic enthusiasm by learning to be a good cook. "In this way, the audience may see a more heart in through her attitude, as I've been doing my best to cook well for my husband," shares the bubbly 90.7 Love Radio DJ. ...And, for added inspiration, she can look up to her latest singing stint: Relieving up on the heels of her hit recording, "Mahal Kita Kasi," Hyala delivers another feel jingle, "Mapa Hapi," for Kraft Eden Oil.

Nicole serves up the fun jingle with a yummy music video to match, which can now be viewed on Youtube. The clip and song celebrate a family bonding moment that every Pinoy household enjoys: whenever a delightful meal is served.

Nicole agrees: Hapi Pusta Palm Oil is perfect for fried foods, as well as for sautéing or stir-frying. It's available in 500-mL, 1 L and small 175 mL packs.

'Bionic'

Dominic Agudelo's new album, "Bionic," features songs cowritten by Agudelo and Sia, Tricia Stewart, Le Tigre, Jodi B. Smith and Ladytron. It includes the current single, "Secrets Of Tonight," whereby energetic audiences produced by Polara Da Cruz.

'Deadliest Catch'

At 11 p.m. on Monday, July 12, Discovery Channel telecasts its season-opening series, "Deadliest Catch," which follows the Bering Sea's toughest crews for another riveting

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